



Khaled Saleh, a spokesman for the Syrian National Coalition, speaks during the opening session of the Arab League Summit in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Syrian opposition representatives took the country's seat for the first time at an Arab League summit that opened in Qatar on Tuesday, a significant diplomatic boost for the forces fighting President Bashar Assad's regime. (AP Photo/Ghiath Mohamad)

Syrian opposition claims seat at Arab summit

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syria's opposition took over the country's seat for the first time at an Arab summit Tuesday in a diplomatic triumph marred by severe divisions in the ranks of the Western-backed opposition alliance. The opposition's ascension to representing the country at the summit in Qatar, a key backer of the those fighting to topple President Bashar Assad, dem-

onstrated the extent of the regime's isolation two years into a ferocious civil war that the U.N. says has killed an estimated 70,000 people. In Damascus, the government on Tuesday blasted the Arab League's decision, portraying it as a selling-out of Arab identity to please Israel and the United States. "The shameful decisions it (Arab League) has taken against the Syrian people

since the beginning of the crisis and until now have sustained our conviction that it has exchanged its Arab identity with a Zionist-American one," said an editorial in the Al-Thawra newspaper, a government mouthpiece. The Qatari ruler, who chaired the summit, said the Syrian opposition deserves "this representation because of the popular legitimacy they have won at home and the broad sup-

port they won abroad and the historic role they have assumed in leading the revolution and preparing for building the new Syria." In a further show of solidarity with anti-Assad forces, the Arab League endorsed the "right of each state" to provide the Syrian people and the Free Syrian Army with "all necessary means to ... defend themselves, including military means."

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Supreme Speculation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court suggested Tuesday it could find a way out of the closely watched case over California's ban on same-sex marriage without issuing a major national ruling on whether gays have a right to marry. One way justice described the issue



The city of Oakland, Calif. raised a rainbow flag on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, in support of the LGBT community. The flag will fly through Wednesday. (AP Photo/Jane Tyska)

as newer than cellphones and the Internet. This week's arguments in two gay marriage cases have drawn intense national interest as momentum rapidly swings toward acceptance of the issue among Americans. No state even recognized same-sex unions before 2003. Dozens of people lined up for days for the chance to observe what they expected to be a historic event, and thousands marched outside Tuesday, loudly claiming one side or the other.

Continued on Page 9

Ruling upends Knox attempt at normal life

PHUONG LE

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Since Amanda Knox was acquitted of murder in Italy, she has tried to return to the life she knew before becoming an international media sensation. But her effort to keep a low profile as a college student in her hometown of Seattle was upended Tuesday, when Italy's highest criminal court overturned her acquittal and ordered a new trial in the murder of British student Meredith Kercher. Knox said it was "painful" news after the trial showed the prosecution case was

convicted of sexually assaulting and stabbing Kercher. But investigators suspected Knox and her ex-boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito were there too, though the couple first said they were not and had spent the night at Sollecito's place.

But the two repeatedly contradicted each other during lengthy police interrogations, with Knox at one point telling investigators she was home the night of the murder and had to cover her ears against Kercher's screams. She also accused a Congolese man of killing her, though

and Sollecito.

Italian law cannot compel Knox to return for the new trial. And family spokesman David Marriott said it's "very doubtful" that Knox will make the trip.

Instead, she will continue to attend the University of Washington, where she is a junior, he said. No public appearances were immediately planned.

Candace Dempsey, a Seattle journalist and author of "Murder in Italy," a book about Knox, was stunned by the Italian high court decision. "Of course it's an absolute nightmare for her and her family,"



Amanda Knox and Raffaele Sollecito outside the rented house where 21-year-old British student Meredith Kercher was found dead, in Perugia, Italy. Italy's highest criminal court has overturned the acquittal of Amanda Knox and of her former Italian boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito, in the slaying of her British roommate and ordered a new trial. The Court of Cassation ruled Tuesday, March 26, 2013 that an appeals court in Florence must re-hear the case against the American and her Italian-ex-boyfriend for the murder of 21-year-old Meredith Kercher

(AP Photo/Stefano Medici)

unfounded and unfair.

"My family and I will face this continuing legal battle as we always have, confident in the truth and with our heads held high in the face of wrongful accusations and unreasonable adversity," the 25-year-old said in a prepared statement Tuesday.

Kercher, 21, was found dead, half-naked and in a pool of blood in the apartment she shared with Knox and two Italian roommates in the Italian university town of Perugia on Nov. 2, 2007. She died of a stab wound to the neck.

An Ivorian immigrant was

investigators later determined he was innocent. Knox later said she was manipulated during police questioning, and stated she was not at the apartment. The couple was convicted of Kercher's murder and sentenced Knox to 26 years and Sollecito to 25 years. But an appellate court overturned their convictions in 2011, saying there was no murder weapon and that the DNA evidence used to convict them was faulty.

Knox returned to Seattle a free woman but on Tuesday, Italy's high court ordered a new trial for Knox

said Dempsey, who has talked with Knox since she returned to Seattle in late 2011. "I think we're seeing who she really is — that she's not the drug-crazed, sex-hungry American girl that the prosecutors have fantasized." Knox has largely avoided the public spotlight and is mostly left alone in her Pacific Northwest hometown known for its rain, stunning water and mountain views, and polite but restrained residents.

Amanda's father, Curt Knox, cited the statement by his daughter and declined further comment on Tuesday. □

LATIN & CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Earthquake shakes swath of Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Earthquakes shook a broad swath of southern Mexico on Tuesday, causing buildings to sway in the capital and sending thousands fleeing into the streets as quake alarms sounded. But there were no immediate reports of damages or injuries. The U.S. Geological Survey said a magnitude-5.5 quake hit at 7:04 a.m. centered about 10 miles west-southwest of Pinotepa Nacional on the Pacific Coast and 227 miles south-southeast of Mexico City. A second quake struck near the same spot eight minutes later, causing people to evacuate tall buildings in the capital. The USGS calculated the magnitude of that quake at 5.1. □

Guyana FM claims economy to grow 5%

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Guyana's finance minister says the economy of the South American country is projected to grow by more than 5 percent this year due to a boost in production of gold, rice and bauxite. Ashni Singh says gold production is projected to grow nearly 3 percent and rice production about 4 percent. He says bauxite production is expected grow by nearly 7 percent. However, Singh warns that Guyana's timber industry will likely decline by nearly 6 percent as a result of domestic and international monitoring. The country's sugar production also is expected to drop, due in part to labor shortages and bad weather. □

Peru declares oil contamination disaster

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Peru's government declared an environmental state of emergency this week in a remote Amazon jungle region it says has been affected by years of contamination at the country's most productive oil fields, which are currently operated by Argentina-based Pluspetrol. Indigenous groups in the Pastaza River basin near the Ecuador border have been complaining for years about the pollution and the failure of successive governments to address it. In declaring the emergency, Peru's Environment Ministry said the contamination included high levels of lead, barium and chromium as well as petroleum-related compounds. □

UN tourism group applauds visa waivers

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — The U.N.'s tourism agency has praised Jamaica for waiving visa requirements for visitors from Eastern Europe and some nationals from Latin America. The World Tourism Organization says the visa waiver announced earlier this month is for travelers from Russia, Poland and other Eastern European nations visiting Jamaica for up to 30 days. Jamaica has also announced an extension of an earlier visa waiver for tourists from Venezuela, Colombia and Panama. Organization head Taleb D. Rifai says Jamaica's decision to ease visa policies generates new opportunities for growth of the tourism sector. □

Supporters of ex-dictator deny genocide

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — A group of retired soldiers and their relatives launched a campaign this week to deny that a genocide was carried out in Guatemala and to demand a fair trial for former dictator Jose Efraim Rios Montt. About 24 people began collecting 5,000 signatures in support of their campaign outside the Supreme Court's building in Guatemala City, where Rios Montt is being tried on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. The protesters held signs that read "There was no genocide here" and "Respect to military dignity and historic truth" as speakers blasted Guatemala's national anthem and military marches. □

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US high court may avoid ruling on gay marriage

Continued from front

The court's first major examination of gay rights in 10 years continues Wednesday, when it will hear the first challenge it has accepted to the 1996 federal Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Former President Bill Clinton signed it into law but has recently spoken publicly against it. The law forbids nationwide recognition of same-sex marriages and bars married gay and lesbian couples from receiving federal benefits.

President Barack Obama has been increasingly vocal in support of gay rights after coming out on the issue during last year's presidential race, and his administration has weighed in on behalf of the two same-sex couples who brought the California case.

There is no guarantee the conservative-leaning Supreme Court will rule in a similar direction, and justices hinted Tuesday that they would not make a broad ruling on so new an issue. The case could produce a number of rulings, ranging from uphold-

ing the California ban to striking it down in a fashion that would erase such bans nationwide. The court is not expected to rule before late June.

Opponents of gay marriage have expressed confidence that the justices will rule their way, and even some gay rights activists have worried that the court has taken up the issue too soon. Supporters of same-sex marriage hope for a ruling that will be the 21st century equivalent of the court's 1967 decision in *Loving v. Virginia* that struck down state bans on interracial marriage.

Several justices, including some liberals who seemed open to gay marriage, raised doubts that the case was properly before them. Justice Anthony Kennedy, the potentially decisive "swing" vote on a closely divided court, suggested that the court could dismiss the case with no ruling at all.

Such an outcome would almost certainly allow gay marriages to resume in California but would have no impact elsewhere. The court is considering a legal challenge to Proposition 8, the gay marriage ban that



This artist rendering shows Attorney Theodore Olson, right, representing the same-sex couples, addresses the Supreme Court in Washington, Tuesday, March 26, 2013, as the court heard arguments on California's ban on same-sex marriage.

(AP Photo/Dana Verkouteren)

California voters approved five years ago. A federal appeals court struck down the ban.

Justice Samuel Alito appeared to advocate a cautious approach.

"You want us to step in and render a decision based on an assessment of the effects of this institution which is newer than cellphones or the Internet? I mean, we

do not have the ability to see the future," Alito said.

Kennedy said he feared the court would go into "uncharted waters" if it embraced arguments advanced by gay marriage supporters. But lawyer Theodore Olson, representing two same-sex couples, said the court similarly ventured into the unknown in 1967 when it struck down bans

on interracial marriage in 16 states.

Kennedy noted that other countries had had interracial marriages for hundreds of years.

Chief Justice John Roberts told Olson that it seemed supporters of gay marriage were trying to change the meaning of the word "marriage" by including same-sex couples. □

Obama gives Secret Service its 1st female director

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Tuesday named the first female director of the Secret Service, signaling his desire to change the culture at the male-dominated agency, which has been marred by a recent prostitution scandal.

The Secret Service, charged with protecting the president and his family, has faced intense criticism for the scandal during preparations for Obama's trip to Cartagena, Colombia, last year.

Veteran Secret Service agent Julia Pierson, who most recently served as the agency's chief of staff, will take over from Mark Sullivan, who announced his retirement last month.

She joins a notably male team around Obama, who had been criticized for bringing in several men advisers for his second term, which started in January.

"Over her 30 years of experience with the Secret Service, Julia has consistently exemplified the spirit and dedication the men and women of the service demonstrate every day," Obama said in a statement announcing Pierson's appointment, which does not require Senate confirmation.

The Colombia incident raised questions about the agency's culture, particularly during foreign travel. In addition to protecting the president, the Secret Service also investigates financial crimes.

Thirteen Secret Service employees were caught up in the prostitution scandal. After a night of partying in the resort city of Cartagena, the employees brought women, including prostitutes, to the hotel where they were staying.

The incident became public after one agent refused to pay a prostitute and the pair argued about payment in a hotel hallway. Eight employees were forced out of the agency, and three were cleared of serious misconduct.

The incident took place before Obama arrived in Colombia, and the service said the president's safety was never compromised. But news of the scandal broke during his trip, over-



President Barack Obama appointed veteran Secret Service agent Julia Pierson as the agency's first female director Tuesday, March 26, 2013, signaling his desire to change the culture at the male-dominated service, which has been marred by scandal. (AP Photo/US Secret Service)

shadowing the summit and embarrassing the U.S. delegation.

Sullivan issued a new code of conduct that bans employees from drinking within 10 hours of starting a shift or bringing foreign nationals back to their hotel rooms. Sullivan also apolo-

gized for the incident.

At the Secret Service, Pierson has served as deputy assistant director of the office of protective operations, assistant director of human resources and training and chief of staff. She started in 1983 as a special agent in Miami. □

US Sen. Johnson retires citing health concerns

**CHET BROKAW
T. BEAUMONT**

Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, South Dakota

(AP) — Democratic U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson of South Dakota said Tuesday he's retiring at the end of his term due to poor health. The move gives Republicans one of their best chances to gain a seat and regain control of the Senate.

The 66-year-old told a news conference that "my right arm and right leg aren't what they used to be, and my speech is not entirely there."

Johnson made it official he will not seek a fourth term. Lingering effects from a 2006 brain hemorrhage have slowed his speech and caused him to use a motorized scooter.

Former Gov. Mike Rounds,

a Republican, had announced plans last year to challenge Johnson, the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, and figures to give Republicans one of their best opportunities at picking up a seat.

Johnson joins Democratic Sens. Carl Levin, Tom Harkin, Jay Rockefeller and Frank Lautenberg as seasoned and influential Democrats departing the chamber,

where Republicans need to gain six seats to take control.

Among those states, West Virginia was carried by Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney last year.

Two Republican senators have announced their retirements, both in Republican-performing states Georgia and Nebraska. □

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\$338M US lottery winner says he feels 'pure joy'

Associated Press

LAWRENCEVILLE, New Jersey (AP) — The Dominican immigrant who won one of the largest lottery jackpots in U.S. history said Tuesday he felt "pure joy" at winning, and he plans to buy a car so he doesn't have to walk everywhere.

Pedro Quezada, a former shop owner who lives in a working-class suburb of New York City, appeared at New Jersey lottery headquarters to officially claim the \$338 million Powerball prize.

Lottery officials said Quezada had decided to accept the winnings in the form of a lump-sum payment worth \$221 million, or about \$152 million after taxes. It's the fourth-largest jackpot in Powerball history.

Quezada said his mind is not yet clear enough to know how he will use the money, but he said he could use a good car. Asked what kind of car he has now, he said, "My feet."

Until last year, he worked 15 hours a day at the store his son now runs. "Imagine ... so much money," Quezada said. "But it will not change my heart."

He said he would share his winnings with family mem-

bers and would use some to help his community.

He said his Mexican-born wife of nine years, Ines Sanchez, could have "what-

thieves broke into their apartment and stole everything from clothing to jewelry. The year before, a fire destroyed much of

money," Quezada's son, Casiano, said from behind the counter of the family store, the Apple Deli Grocery. He said he is proud of

said.

Pedro Quezada's neighbors saw a lot of themselves in the winner: hard-working, a family man, an immigrant, and someone who has known hard times. The neighbors were thrilled that one of their own finally struck it rich.

"This is super for all of us on this block,"

said Eladia Vazquez, who has lived across the street from Quezada's building for the past 25 years. Quezada and his family "deserve it because they are hardworking people."

Fellow Dominican immigrant Jose Gonzalez said he barbecues and plays dominoes with Quezada in the summers in a backyard on their street.

"He sometimes would work from six in the morning to 11 at night, so I did not see him much," Gonzalez said Monday night.

"I am happy for him. ... I don't know where he is now, but I imagine he will drop by to say hi to his friends."

Powerball is played in 42 states, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The chance of matching all five numbers and the Powerball number is about 1 in 175 million. □



Pedro Quezada, the winner of the Powerball jackpot, holds up a promotional check during a news conference at the New Jersey Lottery headquarters, Tuesday, March 26, 2013, in Lawrenceville, N.J. Quezada, 44, won the \$338 million jackpot with the winning ticket he purchased at Eagle Liquors store in Passaic, N.J.

(AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

ever she wants."

Neighbors told The Record newspaper that the Quezada family has suffered bad luck in recent years. Two years ago,

their store, they said.

Quezada would not talk about any of the hard times.

"I know he's going to do something good with the

his father and still in disbelief that he won.

The family moved to the U.S. in the 1980s from the Dominican city of Jarambacoa, Casiano Quezada

North Dakota governor signs strict abortion law

JOHN ELIGON
ERIK ECKHOLM
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FARGO, N.D. — Gov. Jack Dalrymple of North Dakota approved the nation's toughest abortion restrictions Tuesday, signing into law a measure that would ban most abortions and inviting a legal showdown over just how much states can limit access to the procedure.

Dalrymple, a Republican, signed into law three bills passed by the Republican-controlled state Legislature. The most far-reaching law forbids abortion once a fetal heartbeat is "detectable," which can be as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Fetal heartbeats are detectable at that stage of pregnancy using a transvaginal ultrasound. Most legal scholars have said the law would violate the Supreme Court's finding in *Roe v. Wade* that abortions were permitted until the fetus was viable outside the womb, generally around 24 weeks into pregnancy. Even some leaders of the anti-abortion movement nationally

have predicted that laws banning abortion so early in pregnancy are virtually

attempt by a state legislature to discover the boundaries of *Roe v. Wade*," Dal-

rymple said in a statement. The Supreme Court, he added, "has never con-

sidered this precise restriction" in the heartbeat bill. Abortion-rights advocates condemned the governor's decision as effectively banning abortion in the state and framing the laws as unconstitutional and an attack on women. Without judicial intervention, the three bills are scheduled to take effect Aug. 1.

"They have no idea what kind of a sleeping giant they have awoken," said Tammi Kromenaker, the director of the state's only abortion provider, the Red River Women's Clinic in Fargo. "I think that people are going to be much more aware of who we put in office and demand much more from our legislators." The Center for Reproductive Rights, in New York, condemned the new laws and said it would file a challenge to the fetal heartbeat ban. □



Abortion-rights advocates demonstrate during a rally outside a civic center in Fargo, N.D. North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple approved the nation's toughest abortion restrictions Tuesday, signing into law a measure that would ban most abortions and inviting a legal showdown over just how much states can limit access to the procedure. (Dan Koeck/The New York Times)

Judge: Manson disciple can't keep tapes

DANNY ROBBINS
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A federal judge in Texas has ruled that the Los Angeles Police Department should get copies of the decades-old taped conversations between a Manson family disciple and his attorney. Charles "Tex" Watson was a key figure in the Tate-La Bianca murders, one of the most notorious crimes of the 20th century. He, cult leader Charles Manson and three others were sentenced to death, but the sentences were commuted to life in prison when the death penalty was briefly outlawed in California in 1972.

Watson was portrayed in trial testimony as Manson's chief lieutenant, a cruel killer who stabbed actress Sharon Tate, the pregnant wife of film director Roman Polanski, as she begged for her baby's life.

U.S. District Judge Richard A. Schell wrote in an order Sunday that Watson waived his right to attorney-client privilege when he allowed his lawyer to sell the eight cassette tapes to an author nearly 40 years

ago for a book about the convicted murderer's life. The ruling affirms a bankruptcy judge's decision that Watson, who is serving a life sentence in California for his role in the 1969 mur-



Charles Tex Watson listens during a parole hearing at Mule Creek State Prison in Lone, Calif. (AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli)

ders of Tate and six others, sought to overturn. Watson's attorney, Bill Boyd, died in 2009. The tapes were discovered last year by the trustee handling the bankruptcy case of the law firm where Boyd was a partner. Los Angeles police Cmdr. Andrew Smith said Tues-

day the department is prepared to send detectives to Texas to pick up the tapes as soon as they are available. However, they will wait until a 30-day window for an appeal passes. "The LAPD is pleased that the judge ruled in our favor," Smith said. "We are looking forward to getting these tapes and thoroughly analyzing their contents." Smith has said previously that the LAPD believes the tapes could yield clues to unsolved murders. But Watson has indicated that the Manson family wasn't responsible for any other killings. Schell said Watson, now 67, gave up his right to attorney-client privilege when he allowed Boyd to sell a copy of the tapes to Chaplain Raymond G. Hoekstra with the International Prison Ministries in 1976.

The \$49,000 Boyd received was a partial payment for legal fees. The taped conversations became part of Hoekstra's book "Will You Die for Me? The Man Who Killed for Charles Manson Tells His Own Story: Tex Watson as told to Chaplain Ray." □



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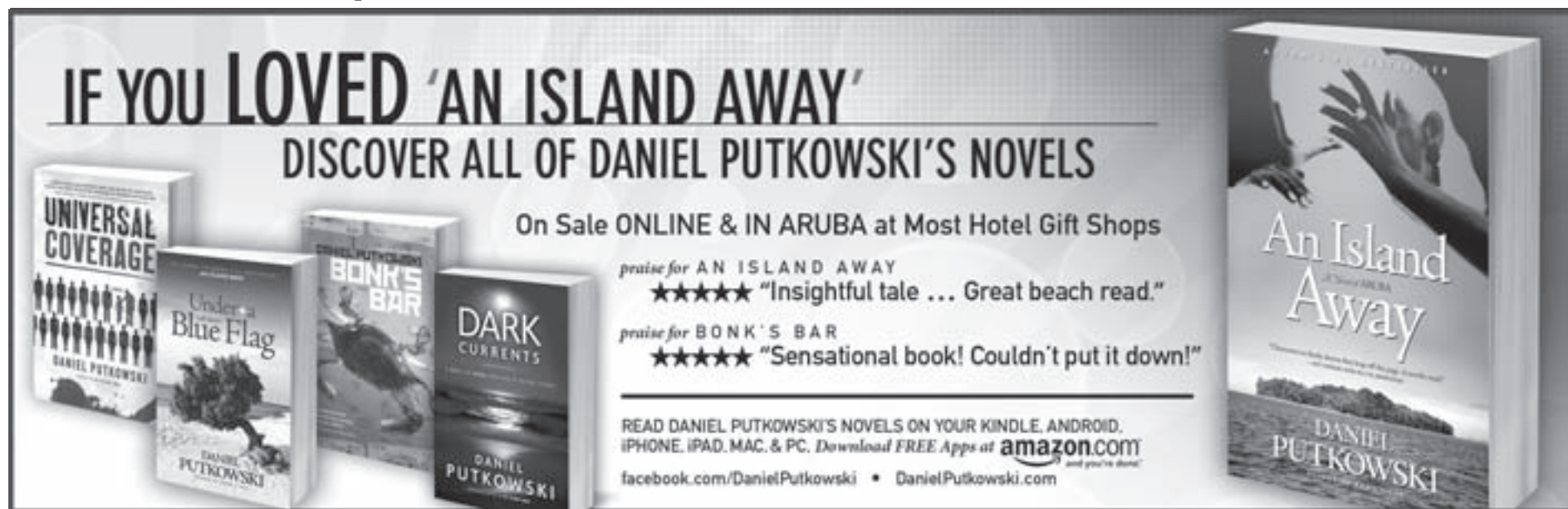
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North Korea puts artillery forces at top combat posture

HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— North Korea's military warned Tuesday that its artillery and rocket forces are at their highest-level combat posture in the latest in a string of bellicose threats aimed at South Korea and the United States.

The announcement came as South Koreans marked the third anniversary of the sinking of a warship in which 46 South Korean sailors died. Seoul says the ship was hit by a North Korean torpedo, while the North denies involvement.

Seoul's Defense Ministry said Tuesday it hasn't seen any suspicious North Korean military activity and that officials are analyzing the North's warning. Analysts say a direct North Korean attack is extremely unlikely, especially during joint U.S.-South Korean military drills that end April 30, though there's some worry about a provocation after the training wraps up.

The rival Koreas have had several bloody naval skirmishes in disputed Yellow Sea waters since 1999. In November 2010, a North Korean artillery strike on a South Korean island killed two marines and two civilians.

North Korea, angry over routine U.S.-South Korean drills and recent U.N. sanctions punishing it for its Feb. 12 nuclear test, has vowed to launch a nuclear strike against the United States and repeated its nearly two-decade-old threat to reduce Seoul to a "sea of fire." Despite the rhetoric,

outside weapons analysts have seen no proof that North Korea has mastered the technology needed to build a warhead small enough to mount on a missile.

On Tuesday, the North

Korea's field artillery forces — including strategic rocket and long-range artillery units that are "assigned to strike bases of the U.S. imperialist aggressor troops in the U.S. mainland and on Hawaii and Guam

signed to raise tensions and intimidate others," Little said.

He said there have been three flights by U.S. B-52 bombers during the recent military drills with South Korea.

"This paves the way for greater praise for him if North Korea makes a provocation later and claims victory."

Kim will eventually be compelled to do "something provocative to prove the threats weren't empty," Lee said.

Meanwhile, websites and organizations run by North Korean defectors in South Korea said they suffered cyberattacks on Tuesday, one week after computer systems at some South Korean banks and TV networks were widely disrupted.

Daily NK, which posts news about North Korea, said it experienced a cyberattack, and South Korea's Yonhap news agency said Free North Korea Radio also was attacked.

Yonhap said a computer network used by seven local governments was also briefly attacked, as was a network belonging to broadcaster YTN.

Authorities have not confirmed who was behind last week's cyberattack but suspect North Korea.

At a ceremony marking the third anniversary of the warship sinking, new South Korean President Park Geun-hye urged the North again to abandon its nuclear weapons program. "Focusing its national strength on the development of nuclear weapons while its people are suffering starvation ... will only bring international isolation to themselves," Park said in a televised speech at a national cemetery south of Seoul where the 46 sailors are buried. □



A North Korean man walks past propaganda posters in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, that threaten punishment to the "U.S. imperialists and their allies." The U.S. recently tightened sanctions against North Korea after Pyongyang tested a nuclear device in February in defiance of international bans against atomic activity.

(AP Photo/Kim Kwang Hyon)

Korean army's Supreme Command said it will take "practical military action" to protect national sovereignty and its leadership in response to what it called U.S. and South Korean plots to attack.

The statement, carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, cited the participation of nuclear-capable B-52 bombers in South Korea-U.S. drills.

and other operational zones in the Pacific as well as all the enemy targets in South Korea and its vicinity" — will be placed on "the highest alert from this moment," the statement said. Pentagon press secretary George Little said the threat would only further isolate North Korea.

"North Korea's bellicose rhetoric and threats follow a well-worn pattern de-

The North's recent threats are seen partly as efforts to strengthen internal loyalty to young leader Kim Jong Un and to build up his military credentials.

Kim "needs to show he has the guts. The best way to do that is to use the military might that he commands," said Lee Yoon-gyu, a North Korea expert at Korea National Defense University in Seoul.



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Syrian opposition claims seat at Arab summit

Continued from front

It was unclear whether the statement would open new weapons channels to fighters. But it would mark a symbolic slap of the U.S. and European allies that have resisted full-scale military aid to the rebels.

Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby told reporters that the call for "rights" to aid rebels is not an end to diplomatic efforts to solve Syria's crisis, but seeks to provide more "balance" with Assad's superior firepower and aid he is getting from Russia and Iran.

"The right to send more weapons to support the opposition is not an end to political efforts, but this might establish balance between both parties," Elaraby said.

Fighting, meanwhile, raged on in Syria. Rebels barraged Damascus with mortar shells that killed at least three people and wounded dozens in one of the most intensive attacks on the seat of President Bashar Assad's power.

The state news agency also reported that a car bomb exploded near the predominantly Kurdish neighborhood of Ruknedine, killing three people.

The opposition delegation led by Mouaz al-Khatib, the former president of the main opposition alliance — the Western-backed Syrian National Coalition — took the seats assigned for Syria at the invitation of Qatar's emir, Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, while other delegates applauded.

Al-Khatib used the forum to call for a greater U.S. role in aiding the rebels and said he had appealed to Secretary of State John Kerry to consider using NATO

Patriot anti-missile batteries in Turkey to help defend northern Syria against strikes by Assad's forces.

Asked about al-Khatib's request for Patriots, State Department spokesman

the beginning that NATO has no intention of getting militarily involved with Syria. That remains the same."

"Our current deployment of Patriot systems is a defensive action to protect

Besides al-Khatib, the Syrian delegation included Ghassan Hitto, recently elected prime minister of a planned interim government to administer rebel-held areas in Syria, and

resignation on Sunday because of what he described as restrictions on his work and frustration with the level of international aid for the opposition. The coalition rejected the resignation and al-Khatib said he would discuss the issue later and represent the opposition at the Qatar summit "in the name of the Syrian people."

Also, Hitto's election as the head of the interim government was rejected by the opposition's military office, which said he was not a consensus figure. Some members have accused Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood of imposing their will on the Coalition. Atassi briefly suspended her membership in the coalition after Hitto was elected.

Addressing the gathering, al-Khatib thanked the Arab League for granting the seat to the opposition and lamented the inaction of several foreign governments, which he did not name, toward the Syrian crisis despite the suffering of civilians in his country. □



Saudi Crown Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud, left, attends the opening session of the Arab League Summit in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Syrian opposition representatives took the country's seat for the first time at an Arab League summit that opened in Qatar on Tuesday, a significant diplomatic boost for the forces fighting President Bashar Assad's regime.

(AP Photo/Ghiath Mohamad)

Patrick Ventrell said the deployment of the anti-missile batteries to Turkey was a NATO decision with a clear mandate to protect Turkey.

"We've heard some of this before in private," Ventrell told reporters in Washington. "He's now publicly saying this. But again, that's what the NATO mission is." A NATO official said "the secretary general of NATO has been very clear since

our ally Turkey," said the NATO official in Belgium on condition of anonymity in keeping with the alliance's regulations.

The diplomatic triumph, however, could not conceal the disarray within the top ranks of the opposition and underlined the splits that continue to plague the opposition, complicating U.S. and Western efforts to try to shape the course of the fight to oust Assad.

two prominent opposition figures, George Sabra and Suheir Atassi.

Al-Khatib announced his

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In Russia, teen complains of adoptive US parents

N. VASILYEVA
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A teenager adopted by an American couple has returned to Russia, claiming that his adoptive family treated him badly and that he lived on the streets of Philadelphia and stole just to survive, Russian state media reported.

The allegations by Alexander Abnosov, who was adopted around five years ago and is now 18, will likely fuel outrage here over the fate of Russian children adopted by Americans. It's an anger that the Kremlin has carefully stoked in recent months to justify its controversial ban on U.S. adoptions.

Russia's Channel 1 and Rossiya television — which are both state controlled — reported Tuesday that Abnosov returned from a Philadelphia suburb to the Volga river city of Cheboksary, where his 72-year-old

grandmother lives.

Russian media identified the teen as Alexander Abnosov, but also show him displaying a U.S. passport that gives his name as Joshua Alexander Salotti.



Alexander Abnosov shows his American passport to journalists in the Volga river city of Cheboksary, Russia. His 72 -years old grandmother is in the background. Abnosov was adopted by an American couple at age 12 has returned to Russia claiming that his parents treated him badly, according to reports from Russian media with close ties to the Kremlin.

(AP Photo/Nikolay Alexandrov)

Abnosov, who spoke in a soft voice and appeared somewhat restrained,

complained to Rossiya that his adoptive mother was "nagging at small things." "She would make any small problem big," he said on Channel 1. He also told Channel 1 that

the streets for about three months and stealing.

"I was stealing stuff and sold them to get some food," he said with a shy smile.

According to the daily Komsomolskaya Pravda, Abnosov says that his parents visited him while he stayed in a shelter in Philadelphia, but that they didn't ask him to come home as he'd expected. Channel 1 said his adoptive father gave him \$500 to buy a ticket to Russia, though it wasn't clear when he arrived here.

The newspaper said it reached Abnosov's adoptive mother, who denied driving him away. She was quoted as saying he was asked to come home, but said he wanted to return to Russia where he has relatives to care for.

The teen's adoptive parents — identified in the media reports as Steve and Jackie Salotti — could not immediately be reached Tuesday.

A woman who identified herself as a relative at the couple's home in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, said the parents weren't there and did not want to discuss the case.

The teen attended the Methacton School District in Pennsylvania from April 2004 through the fall of 2012, when he withdrew from Methacton High School, spokeswoman Angela Linch said Tuesday. Abnosov's story was top news on Russian state tele-

vision, which tried to cast it as an example of the alleged misfortunes that befall Russian children adopted by U.S. parents.

The Russian government in December banned all American adoptions of Russian children in retaliation for a new U.S. law targeting alleged Russian human-rights violators.

Some 60,000 children have been adopted by Americans in the past two decades, and many Russians disagree with the ban, seeing it as a politically driven move depriving children of a chance to have a family. To help justify it, the ban has been accompanied by extensive state media coverage of what is described as numerous cases of parental cruelty to adopted

Russian children in the United States. The Kremlin also has accused U.S. authorities of turning a blind eye to such cases.

Most recently, Russian officials pointed to the Jan. 21 death of 3-year-old Max Shatto, born Maxim Kuzmin, whose mother found him unresponsive outside their home in Gardendale, Texas.

Russian officials claimed the boy was the victim of "inhuman treatment," and expressed disbelief with an American grand jury decided earlier this month not to charge Max's adoptive parents in his death after a prosecutor concluded his fatal injuries were accidental. □

Big Red

"Big Red" was the big Red Rooster that lived next door.

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By: Roland W. Peterson

The "Bario" was his walk and no other rooster ever dared to venture in his domain. Big Red slept in the "Kenepa"-tree in the corner of the yard.

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The neighborhood would tremble and shake, but everyone knew that, that was his sign: "get out of bed."

All the little chicks in the "Bario" resembled "Big Red". You could clearly see that "Big Red" was

"Big Daddy".

One morning the whole "Bario" overslept. When the sun rose some dwellers were upset.

The big question was: What ever happened to "Big Red." So far as they could remember this never happened before. Together they went to look for "Big Red. Under the "Kenepa"-tree they found "Big Red" all curled up and no sign of life.

"Big Red" died in his sleep and fell out of the tree.

Today the "Bario" still remembers "Big Red" and often refer to the time of "Big Red",

Kerry in Paris to talk Syria

MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is in Paris for talks with French officials about aid to the Syrian opposition and the situation in Mali.

Kerry arrived in the French capital Tuesday on the last leg of a five-nation trip that also took him to Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Jordan with President Barack Obama and then on his own to Iraq and Afghanistan.

He will see the French foreign minister on Wednesday. France is one of several European nations that would like to send military aid to the Syrian rebels. It also has been urging the U.S. to boost its assistance. Kerry will also meet with French business leaders and entrepreneurs to discuss how to promote economic growth and create jobs on both sides of the Atlantic, said State Department spokeswoman Jenni-fer Psaki. □

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Politics rule everyday government in Venezuela

JACK CHANG
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— A sea of marchers in red and yellow T-shirts flowed through the capital's main downtown boulevard, paralyzing traffic while state TV cameras stood ready to record every second. The crowd had come out to show their support for the late President Hugo Chavez and his successor Nicolas Maduro, but they

"We're all Chavistas here." Former government workers and experts said Monday's event was only the latest example of changes a decade in the making. The late leader transformed this country's enormous state industries into political arms of the government, they said, with partisan loyalties trumping technical competence in hiring and ministries turning out thousands of civil

politicization has crippled efforts to fix Venezuela's super-violent prisons or lower one of the world's highest homicide rates, with the government refusing to work with opposition governors or mayors on any public safety plan.

Vicente Gonzalez de la Vega, a Central Venezuela University law professor, said he remembers when the capital's 37-mile-

about the system took over a subway train, resulting in 33 arrests.

"We used to say there were two cities, one above, and one below that was more decent, more efficient," de la Vega said. "But this has become a hyper-politicized city. And we've seen the effects."

To Chavez supporters, politicization has merely meant awakening needed class consciousness in a federal bureaucracy that employs about a tenth of all Venezuelans. They also deny it's hurt government services or bottom lines.

"Before, a housewife didn't talk about politics because she said, 'I'm just a housewife,'" said Eduardo

Saman, a former Chavez commerce minister. "An athlete was just surrounded by sports and didn't talk about politics. One of the great achievements of President Chavez was to elevate the level of political consciousness in general terms." "Now, we have technicians who at the same time have the ability to come up with political solutions to problems. Now they're conscious in their work. Politics and technical capacity should not be separated." More than anything else, the country's future hinges on the welfare of PDVSA and its management of the world's biggest proven oil reserves. □



Venezuela's acting President Nicolas Maduro fist bumps a worker of the state-run oil company PDVSA during a visit to the Orinoco oil belt in Venezuela. (AP Photo/MPO)

were't student activists or community organizers.

The march had been launched by state-run telecommunications company CANTV, and the hundreds of employees were heading for the presidential palace to "deliver" the company's 2012 dividends to Maduro, Venezuela's acting leader and the official candidate to replace Chavez.

"We want this political project to continue," said customer support supervisor Maya Leon.

servants for election year rallies.

State companies such as oil producer PDVSA and the manager of Caracas' subway system used to be known around the world for their professionalism. In recent years, many of those companies have seen service and revenue deteriorate as political cadres rather than engineers were brought in to run everything from oil exploration to mass transit. Public safety nonprofit groups say the same

long subway network was considered Latin America's most modern, and drew engineers from around the world to study it. Power outages began hitting the system more frequently and trains were often delayed, as Chavez grew suspicious of the autonomous state company that ran the transport system. New stations and rail lines were left unbuilt, despite booming ridership. Tensions exploded in 2010 when passengers upset

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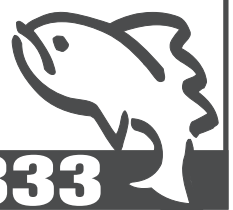


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Cyprus businesses hurt as banks stay shut

MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS

Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) —

Cypriot businesses were under increasing strain to keep running on Tuesday after financial authorities stretched the country's bank closure into a second week in a harried attempt to stop depositors from rushing to drain their accounts.

Cyprus's Central Bank governor, Panicos Demetriades, said "superhuman efforts are being made" to open banks on Thursday.

"Temporary" restrictions will be imposed on financial transactions once the banks do open, he said, but he would not specify what they would be or how long they would be in place.

"We have to restore the public's trust in banks," he said.

Finance Minister Michalis Sarris told The Associated Press the restrictions would help stem any mass deposit withdrawal that is "bound to happen" and that they would be removed in a "relatively short period of time."

"I think every day (banks) are not open creates more uncertainty and more difficulties for people, so we would like to do our utmost to make sure that this new

ter being shut since March 16 to stop savers from withdrawing all their money while politicians figured out how to raise the funds necessary for Cyprus to qualify

ing to give it the 10 billion euros. Much of the 5.8 billion euros will be raised by forcing losses on accounts of more than 100,000 euros (\$129,000), in the country's



Pedestrians pass in front of Piraeus Bank branch in central Athens on Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Greece's Piraeus Bank reached an agreement Tuesday to buy the Greek operations of three Cypriot banks for euro524 million (\$677.79 million), but markets opened after a long weekend hammered by continued uncertainty over the island's finances.

goal that we have set will work," he said.

All but two of the country's largest lenders had been due to reopen Tuesday, af-

ter an international bailout. However, late Monday, authorities announced that the bank closures would be extended until Thursday, giving officials more time to initiate a major overhaul of the banking sector and devise capital controls to limit the amount of money that can be taken out of accounts.

"We have to all understand that we live in very critical times. Officials of the government and the Central Bank are working day and night," Demetriades said.

Under the deal for a 10 billion euro (\$12.9 billion) rescue clinched in Brussels early Monday, Cyprus agreed to slash its oversized banking sector and inflict hefty losses on large depositors in troubled banks. Sarris said authorities hope to limit job losses to a "small number."

"We are looking to a much smaller banking system over time and more concentrated on its core business, which is Cyprus and the international business units in Cyprus," he said.

Cyprus needed to raise 5.8 billion euros before international lenders were will-

ing to give it the 10 billion euros. Much of the 5.8 billion euros will be raised by forcing losses on accounts of more than 100,000 euros (\$129,000), in the country's

second-largest lender, Laiiki, with the remainder coming from tax increases and privatizations. The bank will be broken up immediately into a so-called bad bank containing its uninsured deposits and toxic assets. The "good" assets will be transferred to the nation's biggest lender, Bank of Cyprus. Deposits at Bank of Cyprus above 100,000 euros will be frozen until it becomes clear to what extent they will also be forced to take losses. Those funds will eventually be converted into bank shares.

Cyprus' government spokesman Christos Stylianides told Greek state Net TV that losses on Bank of Cyprus deposits above 100,000 euros will hover at around 30 percent.

"It is a painful development, no doubt about that...it doesn't matter how rich you are, how many millions you have, you don't like your deposits, which you assume were safe, to be converted into shares," said Sarris, adding that authorities are confident that those shares will eventually gain in value. □

Spanish CB offers grim '13 forecast

CIARAN GILES

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain will sink deeper into recession and unemployment will worsen this year as the country struggles under the weight of austerity measures taken to repair public finances and the effects of a weak global economy, the central bank said Tuesday. The Bank of Spain said it expected the economy to contract 1.5 percent this year, compared with 1.4 percent in 2012, and only return to growth in late 2014. The conservative government had predicted a 0.5 percent contraction for this year although Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy was pushed to admit last week that he would have to revise forecasts in April. Spain's economy, the fourth-biggest in the 17-country eurozone after Germany, France and Italy, has been shrinking for the last 18 months.

The bank forecast the jobless rate would rise to 27.1 percent by the end of this year, from a current 26 percent. That also won't start falling until 2014, it said.

The budget deficit, meanwhile, is expected to drop to 6 percent of annual economic output in 2013, down from 6.7 percent last year. The 2012 figure excludes a 40 billion euro (\$51.7 billion) bailout granted by the eurozone group of countries for Spain's troubled banks and which the European Commission has agreed not to take into account. Including the rescue funds would have left last year's deficit at 10 percent. Spain had initially promised European authorities it would cut its deficit to 6.3 percent in 2012 after the 2011 figure was found to have soared to 8.9 percent, nearly three times the EU limit. It had also promised to reduce the deficit to 4.5 percent in 2013 but that figure has long been seen as unrealistic and Spain is now negotiating an easing of its targets with the European Commission. □

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Little Switzerland celebrates launch of Marco Bicego boutique!

ORANJESTAD - Little Switzerland is proud to announce that it has just launched its newest boutique for Marco Bicego in its Royal Plaza location. To celebrate this Little

to the store asking for the Marco Bicego Event will receive a key to open a treasure chest. One lucky winner will receive the magical key to open this



Switzerland has organized a Key event from March 25th until April 1st. Everyone that comes

chest and win a beautiful necklace by Marco Bicego worth \$1000. To extend the celebration each customer will receive

a complimentary jewelry roll when buying a piece by Marco Bicego. This offer is valid both at Little Switzerland Royal Plaza and Paseo Herencia.



And to culminate the celebration each afternoon at Royal Plaza and every evening at Paseo Herencia Little Switzerland will host a wine bar, serving Moscato and Prosecco from Italy. Marco Bicego has redefined the phrase "today's luxury" with sensuous, extraordinarily beautiful jewelry which blends old world Italian hand craftsmanship with tradition, passion, and imagination. His uniquely crafted pieces are exceptional enough to make a statement, yet personal enough to wear every day. This unique combina-

tion has attracted many modern and cosmopolitan women to this artisan's work. The Marco Bicego brand is found in over 1000 of the finest jewelers around the world. Bicego's global representation includes, but is not limited to cities such as New York, London, St. Tropez, Tokyo, and Moscow, and is driven by elegant and modern flagship stores in Verona, Budapest, Crete and Mykonos. In Aruba Marco Bicego is sold exclusively at Little Switzerland Royal Plaza and Paseo Herencia. □

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Exciting mortgage campaign launched: Aruba Bank's mortgage seminar is a total success!

ORANJESTAD - Aruba Bank recently launched an exciting mortgage campaign, titled HipotECO, after having hosted a successful seminar, which focused mostly on how clients could save money, and live financially and environmentally more responsibly with their HipotECO. For all individuals who are thinking of building or buying a home, or refinancing their existing mortgage, this is the moment to apply for a HipotECO mortgage by Aruba Bank. The HipotECO mortgage by Aruba Bank is financially a sound choice, as it offers an extra special interest rate, and clients may start making payments after 6 months. The plan is also environmentally sound, as clients may finance their GREEN electronics as part of the mortgage. In that way, Aruba Bank helps lower monthly electric bills,

allowing clients to make more of their dreams a reality. The plan also allows clients to add extra value to their homes, and at the same time save money with the HipotECO mortgage. For more information, visit www.arubabank.com. Overall, the fourth annual mortgage seminar, was a total success, as it unfolded last Saturday at the Renaissance Convention Center. During the seminar, Aruba Bank shared valuable information and tips with participants. On the program Ivan Flanegin, who discussed Technical and Economic Insights regarding PVC technology, notary official Hilde Rodriquez -Taekema who gave a presentation regarding many important aspects to be taken into consideration when co-habiting, Ryan Kock talked about how to live within one's means, and Anneline

Peterson, Manager of Retail Sales and Services at Aruba Bank, gave an overview of issues worth remembering when signing a mortgage. The participants showed considerable interest and posed a number of astute questions at the end of the seminar. Participants were also able to visit a number of booths set up by island companies, providing more information about environmentally friendly products. Representatives of Aruba Bank were also present to provide maxi-



mum information about the HipotECO mortgage. Aruba Bank would like to thank all speakers and participants who made the Mortgage Seminar such a success, for the fourth consecutive years. A special thank you goes to the Aruba Bank team, as well as to all companies present, providing informa-

tion on green electronics. If you are interested in buying, building or refinancing your home, stop by today and apply for your HipotECO mortgage at one of Aruba Bank's branches. For more information, you may visit one of our branches, or call the Call Center at 527 7700, or visit the website at www.arubabank.com. □



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4. Rawy Maduro - Dog: Dadi
5. Vernon y Shevon Lake - Dog: Bali

Winners Medium Group:

1. Marion Idalgo - Dog: Beertje
2. (Owner omitted) - Dog: Choco
3. Alex Flores - Dog: Lea
4. Jesus Cardozo - Dog: Dora
5. Miguel Gomes - Dog: Sheila

Winners Small Group:

1. Reginald - Dog: Snoopy
2. Devon Dorcas - Dog: Max
3. Tasshmira Kock - Dog: Paco
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Miami Heat forward LeBron James (6) celebrates after a basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Orlando Magic in Orlando, Fla., Monday, March 25, 2013. The Heat won 108-94.

Associated Press

Heat win 27th straight, run away from Magic 108-94

The Associated Press
ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — LeBron James finished with 24 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds, and the Miami Heat won their 27th straight game by running away in the final minutes to beat the Orlando Magic 108-94 on Monday night. Mario Chalmers scored 17, and Chris Bosh and Ray Allen each had 12 for Miami, which broke open a tie game with a 13-0 run spanning the end of the third and start of the fourth quarters. The Heat now are within six games of matching the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers for the longest winning streak in NBA history. It was the 250th win for Heat coach Erik Spoelstra as well. Jameer Nelson had 27 points and 12 assists for the Magic, who got 20 points from Tobias Harris. Miami was without Dwyane Wade, sidelined by a sore right knee.

Continued on Page 20

KEY TO VICTORY



Serena Williams rallies for 3-set win at Sony Open

Serena Williams returns to Li Na, of China, during the Sony Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla., Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Williams won 6-3, 7-6(5).
 Associated Press
 Page 19

Mcllroy texts with Tiger after losing top ranking

CHRIS DUNCAN
AP Sports Writer

HUMBLE, Texas (AP) — Rory Mcllroy sent a text message to Tiger Woods on Tuesday, congratulating him on winning at Bay Hill and taking over the No. 1 world ranking again. Woods responded by telling Mcllroy to get going — he put it a bit more crudely than that — and win this week's Houston Open. A victory would put Mcllroy back at No. 1, a spot he held for 32 weeks before Woods' latest win. For now, Mcllroy is fine with Woods holding the world's top ranking, especially with the Masters coming up in two weeks. "I didn't think I could go into the Masters under the radar," Mcllroy said. "I can go in a little bit underneath him. So, in a way, it's not a bad thing." Mcllroy skipped Bay Hill and says he had a "good

week, a fun week" in Miami. He watched girlfriend Caroline Wozniacki play in the pro tennis event in Key Biscayne, Florida, then stopped by a municipal course on Saturday night to hit range balls in relative anonymity with Wozniacki and Novak Djokovic, currently the world's No. 1 tennis player. "People left me alone, it was fine," Mcllroy said. "It's nice to just go, not just go about my business and no one cares, but you go about it and not be, I guess, the most talked about person in golf. It's a nice thing." Mcllroy won four times in 2012, including the PGA Championship that catapulted him to No. 1. He signed a Nike contract in the offseason, but has gotten off to a rough start this year, raising questions about his adjustment to his new equipment. He missed the cut at Abu



In this March 7, 2013, file photo, Tiger Woods, right, talks with Rory Mcllroy, of Northern Ireland, as they wait to tee off at the 13th tee during the first round play at the Cadillac Golf Championship in Doral, Fla.

Associated Press

Dhabi, lost in the first round of the Match Play Championship and then walked off the course during the second round of the Honda Classic, citing frustration. He finally saw signs of progress when he shot a 65 in the final round at Doral and tied for eighth, and he's confident that he's ready to contend at Red-

stone this week. "We're not machines, we're humans," Mcllroy said. "You're going to have patches where you play great and have patches where you struggle a little bit. I guess you've just got to take the rough and the smooth and just try and treat those times, sort of play and be patient and

know that you're working on the right things." Maybe Mcllroy can learn from Woods as he tries to dig out of his early-season slump. Woods has won three times in five starts this year, looking as dominant as ever after going through injuries, personal turmoil and a swing change. "I've always said he's been one of the greatest fighters on a golf course," Mcllroy said. "If things aren't going his way, he'll dig in and get whatever he can out of a round. He can repeat day-in, day-out, that attitude and that single-mindedness or that drive or motivation, I think that's his most impressive aspect." Mcllroy said he's seeing more good shots since the last round at Doral, his lowest of the season. "The weekend at Doral was great and the way I've been hitting the ball recently," he said. □

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Williams advances to Key Biscayne semis



Serena Williams celebrates her 6-3, 7-6(5) win against Li Na, of China, during the Sony Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla., Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Serena

Associated Press

STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — Five-time champion Serena Williams advanced Tuesday to the Sony Open semifinals and equaled the women's record for career victories in the tournament

by beating No. 5-seeded Li Na 6-3, 7-6 (5).

The top-ranked Williams overcame six double-faults and rallied in the second set from a 5-2 deficit. She hit six winners in the tiebreaker, including a forehand passing shot cross-

court on the final point. Williams, who won her most recent Key Biscayne title in 2008, improved to 59-7 in the tournament. Steffi Graf, another five-time champion, went 59-6.

"I hope to get more," Williams said.

No. 2 Andy Murray, the champion in 2009 and runner-up last year, returned to the quarterfinals by beating No. 16 Andreas Seppi 6-2, 6-4. No. 8 Richard Gasquet hit 17 aces, including three in the final tiebreaker, and advanced to his first Key Biscayne quarterfinal by beating No. 10 Nicolas Almagro 6-7 (3), 7-5, 7-6 (3). No. 3 David Ferrer beat No. 13 Kei Nishikori 6-4, 6-2, while No. 11 Gilles Simon came back to beat No. 7 Janko Tipsarevic 5-7, 6-2,

6-2.

Ferrer's next opponent will be unseeded Jurgen Melzer, who rallied past Albert Ramos 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Sam Querrey lost his fourth-round match, and for the first time the tournament will have no American in the men's quarterfinals.

Querrey, playing his first tournament as the top-ranked American on the ATP Tour, lost to Tomas Berdych 6-1, 6-1 in 50 minutes. On a breezy, sunsplashed afternoon, Williams and Li both struggled with their second serve.

"It was like, 'Look, I just can't hit any more double-faults,'" Williams said. "It's embarrassing and unprofessional. I hit about 50 in one game, and it was just outrageous."

Li had seven double-faults, with three giving Williams her only break points.

In the tiebreaker, Williams didn't need a second serve. She hit consecutive service winners for a 4-3 lead, then two more to go up 6-5. When Williams smacked a winner on match point she jumped for joy cannonball-style, knees high and fist raised.

"I don't usually leap like that in the quarterfinal," she said. "But it was just a good shot."

Williams, who is assured of remaining No. 1 next week, will play Thursday against the winner of the quarterfinal Tuesday night between defending champion Agnieszka Radwanska and No. 30-seeded Kirsten Flipkens. □

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Baseball, softball cite WBC success in Olympic bid

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — World baseball and softball leaders say their joint bid for inclusion in the 2020 Olympics has been boosted by the success of

The Dominican Republic's Robinson Cano raises the MVP trophy after the championship game of the World Baseball Classic against Puerto Rico in San Francisco, Tuesday, March 19, 2013. The Dominican Republic won 3-0. Associated Press

the World Baseball Classic. Don Porter, co-president of the World Baseball Softball Confederation, says "we believe baseball and softball can become the next global game."

The Dominican Republic won the WBC by beating Puerto Rico 3-0 in the final of the 28-team tournament in San Francisco on March 19.

Organizers say the WBC, in its third edition since being launched in 2006, exceeded

global broadcast and ticket sales targets.

WBSF co-president Riccardo Fraccari says the figures "clearly indicate that our sport could help further drive the Olympic brand in key and lucrative regions." Baseball and softball, out of the Olympics since 2008, have merged in a bid to return for the 2020 Games. They are competing against seven other sports for a single spot on the program. □

Jackson recovering well from hamstring surgery

SYDNEY (AP) — Lauren Jackson says she has no plans to play basketball until she returns to the Seattle Storm next May for the 2014 WNBA season, and that she's experiencing no pain for the first time in three years.

Jackson, who has won four Olympic medals with Australia, including a bronze last year at the London Games, underwent surgery on her right hamstring in January, a chronic injury which she says nearly forced her to retire.

The three-time WNBA MVP told Australian media Wednesday that "now I'm running up hills, doing everything I can, pain-free." Jackson has not played a full WNBA season since 2010, when Seattle won its second league title. □

NBA CAPSULES

Continued from Page 17

The Magic were again missing Nik Vucevic, sidelined with a mild concussion.

HORNETS 110, NUGGETS 86 NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Ryan Anderson scored 23 points, Brian Roberts doubled his career high with 18 assists and short-handed New Orleans ended Denver's 15-game win streak.

New Orleans, playing without its starting backcourt of Eric Gordon and Greivis Vasquez, won its third in a row and was in control all the way.

Roberts, a rookie making his second start, had 11 assists by halftime, two more than his previous best. Anderson was 5 of 11 on 3-pointers, and the Hornets sank 14-of-25 3s as seven players scored in double figures.

Danilo Gallinari had 24 points for the Nuggets, who were without starting point guard Ty Lawson (right heel injury) for the third consec-

utive game.

WIZARDS 107, GRIZZLIES 94 WASHINGTON (AP) — John

Wall scored a career-high 47 points and added eight assists, Emeka Okafor had 21 points and nine rebounds, and undermanned Washington beat Memphis.

Wall shot 13 of 22 from the field and made a career-high 19 free throws on 24 attempts.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 23 points.

It was Washington's sixth straight home win, while Memphis dropped its fourth straight road game. Already without guard Bradley Beal (sprained left ankle), guard A.J. Price (groin) and forward Trevor Ariza (flu), Wizards coach Randy Wittman announced before the game that forwards Nene (sore right knee) and Martell Webster (abdomen strain) were also out.

Memphis center Marc Gasol missed his second straight game after aggravating an abdominal tear



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, left, guards Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 25, 2013, in Oakland, Calif.

Friday at New Orleans.

PACERS 100, HAWKS 94 INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Gerald Green scored 19 points and Roy Hibbert finished with 17 points and 13 rebounds, leading short-handed Indiana past Atlanta.

The Pacers (44-27) extended their Central Division lead to five games over second-place Chicago with 11 games to play. And they did it despite playing without Danny Granger, George Hill, Lance Stephenson or David West. All four sat out with injuries.

They also won on a night that Atlanta (39-32) could have clinched a playoff spot.

Josh Smith led the Hawks with 20 points and Al Horford had 13 points and eight rebounds, not nearly enough against the revamped and focused Pacers. □

Associated Press

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NHL Capsules

Brown lifts Kings past Blackhawks 5-4

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Dustin Brown converted his own rebound with 1:27 remaining, lifting the Los Angeles Kings to a 5-4 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks on Monday night.

Brown's first attempt went off the back of Blackhawks defenseman Johnny Oduya, but it bounced right back to the captain, who sent it past Corey Crawford for his 12th of the season. Anze Kopitar set up the score by winning a faceoff in Chicago's end.

Kopitar also had a goal in the second period to end Los Angeles' scoreless streak at 150 minutes, 35 seconds. Michael Frolik had two goals and an assist for Chicago, which has lost two in a row. Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews also scored.

The Blackhawks were without right wing Marian Hossa for the second straight game due to an upper-body injury. Hossa isn't expected to play Tuesday night against Calgary, but could return this weekend. Toews gave Chicago the lead when he beat Jonathan Quick with a rebound backhand early in the third period, but Tyler Toffoli responded with a quick tying snap shot.

Jarrett Stoll and Dwight King also scored for Los Angeles, which had been shut out in each of its previous two games. The reigning Stanley Cup champions have won four of six overall. **WILD 7, STARS 4**

DALLAS (AP) — Zach Parise scored two goals and added an assist as Minnesota extended its winning streak to six games.

Both of Parise's goals came

on bounces that barely made it over the goal line. Mikko Koivu and Matt Cullen each had a goal and assist for Minnesota, which won for the first time in Dallas since March 21, 2003, snapping a 16-game losing streak in Dallas (0-11-5).

With the game tied 4-4 in the third period, the Wild got a short-handed goal from Kyle Brodziak at 12:38. Dany Heatley added an insurance goal with 1:28 remaining. Pierre-Marc Bouchard added an empty-netter with 16 seconds left.

Niklas Backstrom, who is 14-3-1 in his past 18 games and coming off a 2-0 shutout of San Jose on Saturday, stopped 22 shots for the win. Jaromir Jagr, Alex Goligoski, Trevor Daley and Philip Larsen scored for the Stars, who were playing their first game since longtime captain Brenden Morrow was traded to Pittsburgh on Sunday.

BRUINS 3, MAPLE LEAFS 2, SO

BOSTON (AP) — Patrice Bergeron scored the equalizing goal with 9:24 left in regulation, then put Boston ahead in the shootout as the Bruins held on for a victory.

Milan Lucic also scored for Boston, which rallied from a 2-0 deficit and improved to 11-2-1 at home this season. Tuukka Rask had 23 saves through regulation and overtime, then stopped Nikolai Kulemin on the Maple Leafs' last chance to extend the shootout, which Boston led 2-1 on goals by Tyler Seguin and Bergeron. Rask had been beaten by Kulemin on a breakaway in the second period, but stopped him this time,

knocking the puck away with his blocker and preserving the win for Boston.

Toronto held Boston to just six shots in the third period, but Boston got a goal out of one of them when Bergeron scored at 10:36.

SENATORS 3, DEVILS 2, SO OTTAWA (AP) — Mika Zibanejad scored the winner in the shootout to give Ottawa a win over New Jersey. Chris Phillips and Colin Greening also scored for the Senators, who got 32 saves from Ben Bishop. Captain Daniel Alfredsson also scored in the shootout for Ottawa.

Andrei Loktionov and Marek Zidlicky scored for the Devils as Martin Brodeur faced 14 shots.

New Jersey tied the game 2-2 at 6:05 of the third period as Zidlicky beat Bishop with a wrist shot from the left circle.

After a scoreless overtime, Alfredsson scored on Ottawa's second shootout attempt. The Devils' Travis Zajac tied it 1-1, then Zibanejad's goal and Bishop's save on Loktionov ended the game.

PREDATORS 3, OILERS 2 NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Sergei Kostitsyn had a goal and an assist to lead Nashville over Edmonton. Kevin Klein and Chris Mueller also scored for Nashville, which its third straight.

Martin Erat added two assists for the Predators. He has seven points (one goal, six assists) in his past three games.

Taylor Hall and Shawn Horcoff scored for the Oilers in their third consecutive loss. Hall opened the scoring at 7:53 of the opening period. The goal was Hall's seventh of the season. □



Dallas Stars defenseman Alex Goligoski (33) defends in front of the net taking down Minnesota Wild left wing Zach Parise (11) as Dallas Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen (32) covers the puck during the third period of an NHL hockey game on Monday, March 25, 2013 in Dallas. The Wild won 7-4.

Associated Press

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Spring to the Sea

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Spring in Aruba means a mass migration to the seaside. Not talking tourist here. I am describing neighbors who stay far away from the ocean the whole year, but then are moved to spend the week "camping" by the ocean. Do not believe for a moment that this is a local tradition. People have been drawn to the sea for fun, health and revitalization since ancient times. Plato, the Greek philosopher said, "The Sea cures all ailments of man." Plato as well as Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, often prescribed bathing in the sea as a health treatment. Most of us know that a trip to the sea makes us feel "new." Why? First, the ocean air is filled with negative ions. Countless studies have been done on how negative ions clean dust and therefore reduce symptoms of allergies, counteract negative effects of smoking, and increase the flow of oxygen to the brain; resulting in higher alertness, decrease drowsiness, and more mental energy. Wow, all that from going to the ocean? Do you know that sea water contains all the 104 minerals and trace elements present in human serum, or plasma? So powerful are the effects of the sea water on the human body, mind and spirit that a rejuvenating therapy known as Thalassotherapy, from the Greek words, "Thalasso" for sea; and "therapy" for

treatment has been practiced since well before the 1800's when the French coined the word. So, soaking in the ocean or if you're not lucky enough to live near the ocean, a sea salt bath, is a therapy that allows the skin to absorb and benefit from ocean minerals. As a complimentary physician and a medical anthropologist, I realize that this urge to go to the sea in springtime, is a primal urge to clean ourselves from the past so that we can be reborn.

I recommend whenever possible, that parents take their children to the ocean to clean their sinuses. Ocean water is a natural antihistamine that helps clear up mucus secretions. It is a powerful antihistamine that does not make you drowsy and has no negative side effects. Antibiotic do not help fight viruses. However, nearly all viruses will succumb to sea water and natural sunshine.

I believe in the healing power of the sea so strongly, that I developed a "Water" therapy for our patients who are swollen with edema. I call this treatment "Head out Immersion". The number of people in our community taking diuretics, or drugs to remove excess body fluid or edema is staggering. Many people think if they are suffering from edema they have too much water in the body and do not drink fluids. Actually, edema actually is one of the

signs of dehydration or that the body is trying to dilute a poison. The fluid swelling arms and legs is salty water that can be replenished with fresh, healthy water.

I supervise my patients who want help to move out this "dirty" water by having them drink more water and sit in the ocean. Before leaving your house measure the thickness of your legs. Drink a liter (quart) of water and go to the beach. Sit in the water for forty minutes with the water up to your neck with your head out of the water, your arms and legs underwater. If you also have hypertension you will leave the water, get home and realize that you are ready for a sound nap. Our Head Out Immersion produces positive results and here at Viana Healing Center we have seen this easy procedure work small miracles with swollen bodies. By the way, you know that diuretic you are taking? It does remove some body fluid and potassium, but leaves the salt behind, which means you are going to swell up faster. The head out immersion also removes your excess body salt. Meanwhile, the potassium you have lost is a very important mineral for the proper function of all cells, tissues, and organs in the human body. If you are taking a diuretic it is important to replace the lost potassium. Many foods contain potassium, including all meats, some types of fish, such as salmon, cod, and



flounder, and many fruits, vegetables, and beans.

Another "Hydro" (water) therapy and a great way to detoxify your organs and hydrate your body is by having your colon washed. Colon Hydrotherapy is an extended and more complete form of an enema. Colon hydrotherapy involves the gentle infusion of warm filtered water into the rectum by a trained therapist or Natural Physician, using no chemicals or drugs. The out flowing water removes excess gas, mucus, infectious material and feces. It is the natural solution to conditions, which interfere with the normal functions of the colon. We get extra request for this treatment in our clinic, especially after holiday binging, or when beginning a weight loss or other health program or as a "spring cleaning". Many patients state that they feel reborn after this therapy.

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vantage of its natural healing properties. When you get home, you can check out a spa that offers Thalassotherapy or get some organic sea salts to bath in as a home therapy. Be sure to drink plenty of mineral water every day. If you would like more help with a specific type of detox or cleansing, we offer colon-hydro therapy, individual medical analysis and a program to suite each person. Meanwhile, be part of the solution in keeping our waters clean so the healing will continue.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

Dr. Viana's NEW BOOK: Prescriptions from Paradise, Introduction to Biocompatible Medicine – Available at local Bookstores, Hotel Gift shops and Boticas. Signed copies at Viana Healing Center, EBook on www.amazon.com, check for Events at: [facebook.com/vianahealingcenter](https://www.facebook.com/vianahealingcenter).

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Google picks 8,000 to test net-connected glasses

MICHAEL LIETKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Google has picked 8,000 people in the U.S. who will have a chance to wear the company's new Internet-connected glasses, which are being described as the next breakthrough in mobile computing.

Google Inc. began notifying contest winners Tuesday. The winners will have to pay \$1,500 apiece if they want a test version of the product, called "Google Glass." They also will have to travel to New York, Los Angeles or the San Francisco Bay area to pick up the device, which isn't expected to be available on the mass market until late this year or early next year. The excitement stems from the belief that Google Glass is at the forefront of a new wave of technology known as "wearable computing." Google, Apple Inc. and several other companies also are working on Internet-connected wristwatches, according to published reports that have

cited anonymous people familiar with the projects.

Google Glass is supposed to perform many of the same tasks as smartphones, except the glasses respond to voice commands instead of fingers touching a display screen. The glasses are equipped with a hidden camera and tiny display screen attached to a rim above the right eye.

The engineers who have been building Google Glass tout the technology as a way to keep people connected to their email, online social networks and other crucial information without having to frequently gaze down at the small screen on a smartphone. The hidden camera is designed to make it easy for people to take hands-free photos or video of whatever they are doing.

Privacy watchdogs, though, are already worried that Google Glass will make it even more difficult for people to know when they are on camera.

One contest winner promised to take Google Glass

to Veteran Administration hospitals so soldiers who fought in World War II can see their memorials before they die. Another plans to wear Google Glass during a trip to Japan so she can take video and pictures that she can share with her grandmother, who lives in the U.S. but would like to see her native country again. A zookeeper plans to use Google Glass to show what it's like to feed penguins, and another contest winner wants to use the technology to provide maps that will help firefighters in emergencies.

Google said the test, or "Explorer," version of Glass will help its engineers get a better understanding of how the technology might be used and make any necessary adjustments before the device hits the mass market.

The company sold an unspecified number of "Explorer" models to computer programmers last year. The finished product is expected to cost from \$700 to \$1,500. □



This June 27, 2012 file photo shows Google co-founder Sergey Brin demonstrating Google's new Glass, wearable internet glasses, at the Google I/O conference in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Google clashes with Swedes over 'ungoogleable'

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Sweden's language watchdog has accused Google of trying to control the Swedish language in a dispute over the definition of the colloquial term "ungoogleable." The Swedish version of the word — "ogooglebar" — made the Language Council of Sweden's 2012 list of words that aren't in the Swedish dictionary but have entered common parlance. The council defined it as something "that cannot be found on the Web with a search engine." But Google objected, asking for changes showing the expression specifically refers to Google searches and a disclaimer saying Google is a registered trademark, the council said Tuesday. Rather than changing the definition, the council deleted the word from the

list, while stressing "our displeasure with Google's attempts to control the language."

Google refrained from commenting on the matter directly.

"While Google, like many

businesses, takes routine steps to protect our trademarks, we are pleased that users connect the Google name with great search results," Google spokesman Gustaf Brusewitz said in an email. □

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US home prices rise 8.1 pct., most since June 2006

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. home prices rose in January at the fastest annual pace since June 2006, just before the housing bubble burst. The gain shows the housing recovery is strengthening ahead of the all-important spring buying season. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index climbed 8.1 percent in the 12 months ending in January. That's up from a 6.8 annual gain in December. Prices rose in all 20 cities. Eight markets posted double-digit increases, led by a 23.2 per-

cent gain in Phoenix. Prices rose 17.5 percent in San Francisco and 15.3 percent in Las Vegas, one of the nation's hardest hit markets during the crisis. Prices rose in 11 of 20 cities on a month-over-month basis.

The monthly numbers are not seasonally adjusted and reflect the slower winter buying period. The S&P/Case-Shiller index covers roughly half of U.S. homes. It measures prices compared with those in January 2000 and creates a three-month moving average.

The January figures are the

latest available.

Home prices nationwide are still 29 percent below their peak reached at the height of the housing bubble in August 2006. They are only back to where they were in August 2003.

Still, steady price increases should help make the housing recovery sustainable and add to economic growth. Higher home prices encourage more people to buy before prices rise further."

Over time, persistently rising house prices also boost household wealth, make lenders more willing to lend because the asset they're

underwriting is appreciating, and ease pressure on local government budgets that get revenue from property taxes," Jonathan Basile, director of economics at Credit Suisse, wrote in a research note.

Other recent reports have shown a strengthening recovery in housing, helped by near-record-low mortgage rates. Construction of single-family homes rose in February at the fastest pace in 4 1/2 years.

Sales of previously owned homes rose last month to their fastest pace in more than three years. More Americans are putting their

houses on the market, suggesting they believe the housing market will continue to strengthen.

The number of available homes for sale rose 10 percent last month, the first monthly gain since April. Even with the gain, the inventory of homes for sale was still 19 percent below a year ago.

Investment in housing, including home construction, contributed to the nation's economic growth last year for the first time since 2005; from 2006 through 2011, a drop in housing investment dragged economic growth down. □

US durable goods orders rise on aircraft demand

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A surge in commercial aircraft demand pushed orders for U.S. long-lasting manufactured goods up sharply in February. The gain offset a steep drop in orders that signal company investment plans, although economists viewed the decline as a temporary setback.

The broader trend in business investment remains favorable, they noted, and should add to growth in the January-March quarter.

"The picture of business spending to start the year is fairly healthy," said Dan Greenhaus, chief global strategist at BTIG.

Overall orders for durable goods surged 5.7 percent in February from January, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. It was the biggest monthly in-

crease in five months.

A rebound in volatile commercial aircraft orders drove the gain. Those orders rose 95.3 percent after a 24 percent drop in January.

Orders for motor vehicles and parts rose 3.8 percent, the best showing since July. Excluding the volatile transportation sector, orders were down 0.5 percent.

Durable goods are products expected to last at least three years. Orders can fluctuate sharply from month to month.

Economists pay closest attention to orders for so-called core capital goods, which strip out volatile aircraft and defense orders and provide a better indication of the trend in business investment.

Those orders declined 2.7 percent in February from January. Demand weakened for machinery and

communications equipment, but rose for computers. Still, the decline followed a 6.7 percent surge in January, which was the biggest one-month gain in nearly three years. Prior to February's decline, the cat-

egory had risen in three of the previous four months.

Greenhaus said that if the big swings in January and February were averaged, orders looked solid for the first two months of the year. He estimates that core or-

ders risen at about a 5 percent rate compared with the final three months of last year. Peter Newland, an economist at Barclays, said the strength shown in the durable goods report had prompted a slight revision in expectations for overall economic growth in the first quarter to a rate of 2.6 percent, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous estimate.

Many economists were expecting a decline in the core capital goods after January's impressive gain. The broader trend has been favorable, even with uncertainty surrounding tax and spending policies. Core capital goods orders dipped in December but posted strong gains in November and October.

Nearly all Americans who draw a paycheck began paying higher Social Security taxes on Jan. □



An employee carts a dishwasher to a customer's vehicle at the loading docks of Nebraska Furniture Mart in Omaha, Neb. A surge in commercial aircraft demand pushed orders for U.S. long-lasting manufactured goods up sharply in February. The gain offset a steep drop in orders that signal company investment plans, although economists viewed the decline as a temporary setback.

(AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

US consumer confidence takes a hit in March

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are less confident in the economy than they were last month as massive government spending cuts have stoked economic uncertainty.

It's just the latest swing in the way Americans feel about the economy. They're views have fluctuated between optimism and angst

as they've weighed an advancing stock market and housing recovery against new economic challenges. The Conference Board, a New York-based private research group, said Tuesday that its Consumer Confidence Index fell in March to 59.7 from a revised reading of 68 in February and the 68.7 that analysts polled by research firm FactSet expected. Confidence is

still far off from the 90 reading that indicates a healthy economy.

The index is closely watched by economists because it makes a monthly gauge of how Americans are feeling about their jobs, incomes and other bread-and-butter issues.

That's important because consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of U.S. economic activity.

Anxiety about \$85 billion in across-the-board government spending cuts that took effect March 1 caused the decline, the group said.

The spending reductions, which were triggered after Congress and the White House failed to resolve a budget impasse, have "created uncertainty regarding the economic outlook," Lynn Franco, the Conference Board's direc-

tor of economic indicators, said in a statement. Congress and the Obama administration reached a deal on Jan. 1 to prevent income taxes from rising on most Americans. But they allowed a temporary cut in Social Security taxes to expire.

For a worker earning \$50,000 a year, take-home pay will shrink by about \$1,000. □

Slovakia inks deal to have US Steel stay

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP)

— The Slovak government and U.S. Steel signed a deal Tuesday that will ensure the American company remains the owner of a steel mill employing thousands for at least five more years.

The negotiations between U.S. Steel and the Slovak government have been going on for months. U.S. Steel has reportedly had purchase offers for the mill in the eastern city of Kosice.

"Today, we created conditions to motivate U.S. Steel to stay in Slovakia and continue to produce steel," Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said, a day after meeting with U.S. Steel's CEO, John Surma, in Pittsburgh.

U.S. Steel bought the operations in 2000, but Europe's financial troubles have hurt demand for steel and profits at the plant.

The plant, U.S. Steel's last overseas operation, employs about 12,500 people and is a key source of business in eastern Slovakia as well as a major supplier for the country's growing car industry.

The government said the deal covers issues such as energy costs and environment protection but offers no tax breaks. After five years, the two parties will reassess the deal, it said. □

S&P nears record as home price surge lifts stocks

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed within a short reach of its all-time high on Tuesday. Rising home prices and orders for manufactured goods drove stocks up from the opening bell. The S&P 500 index rose 12.08 points, or 0.8 percent, to close at 1,563.77. That's less than two points from the peak it reached on Oct. 9, 2007, before a recession and ensuing financial crisis battered markets. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 111.90 points, also 0.8 percent, to 14,559.65.

"Unless something major comes along to derail this rally, it just seems like the market is going to keep climbing higher," said Marty LeClerc, the managing partner of Barrack Yard Advisors, an investment firm in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

Factory orders surged in February, helped by stronger demand for commercial aircraft. Overall orders for durable goods, a catchall term for products ranging from refrigerators to jumbo jets, jumped 5.7 percent from the previous month, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. It was the biggest increase in five months.

The stock market's gains were widely shared. All 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 rose, with health care

and energy companies leading the way.

Smaller companies, which have been beating the market all year, didn't do as well Tuesday. The Nasdaq composite rose 17.18

to the rest of the world. "That's part of the reason small-caps have outpaced the market this year," Ablin said.

The S&P 500, used by investors as a proxy for the over-

all market, is up 9.7 percent so far this year. The Russell 2000 has fared better, rising 11.8 percent.

European markets rose modestly as investors gained confidence in the new bailout plan arranged for Cyprus and its banking system. The island country decided to keep its banks closed for another two days in an attempt to ward off panicked withdrawals. Netflix surged 5 percent, leading the S&P 500, after an analyst at Pacific Crest Securities said the stock will likely climb as the company adds subscribers. Netflix's database of its members' viewing habits should give it an edge in creating new shows and draw more people to sign up for the video-streaming service, the analyst said. Netflix rose \$9.82 to \$190.61.

Housing prices rose in January at the fastest pace since the summer of 2006, before the housing bubble popped. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city price index climbed 8.1 percent in the 12 months to January. That compares with a 6.8 percent increase the previous month. Prices rose in all 20 cities, led by Phoenix.

The economic reports out Tuesday added to evidence that the economy is slowly improving, and that's exactly what many investors want right now, LeClerc said. Slow growth means it will take a while before the Federal Reserve starts unraveling its bond-buying program and raising interest rates.

In the market for U.S. government bonds, the yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note slipped to 1.91 percent from 1.92 percent late Monday.

Among stocks making big moves: — Drive-in restaurant chain Sonic jumped 10 percent after reporting that its quarterly earnings more than doubled. Sales were flat but Sonic said its expects them to improve in the year ahead. □



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

points, or 0.5 percent, to 3,252.48, and the Russell 2000 rose 3.97 points, or 0.4 percent, to 949.82. That's roughly half of the S&P 500's gain.

Big company stocks and small-company stocks often part ways, said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank in Chicago. Big corporations generally have stronger ties to Europe, and their stocks wavered over the past week as traders kept an eye on negotiations to rescue Cyprus.

By contrast, smaller companies are less exposed

all market, is up 9.7 percent so far this year. The Russell 2000 has fared better, rising 11.8 percent.

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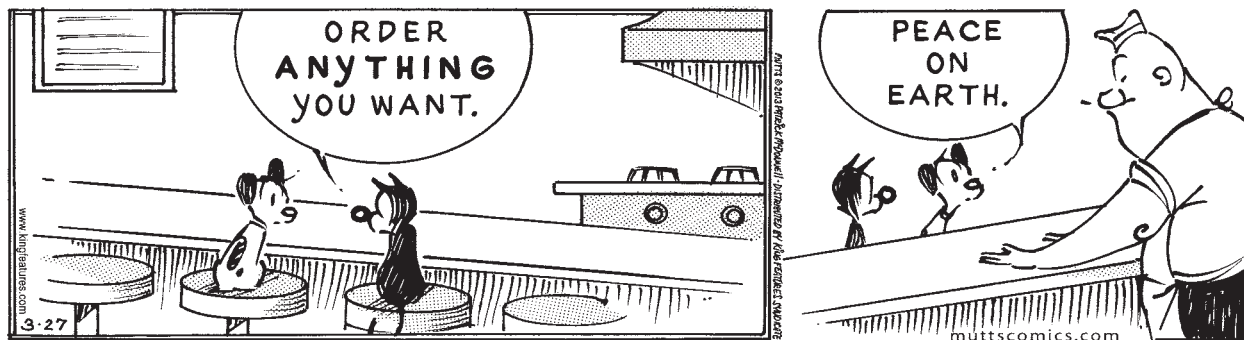
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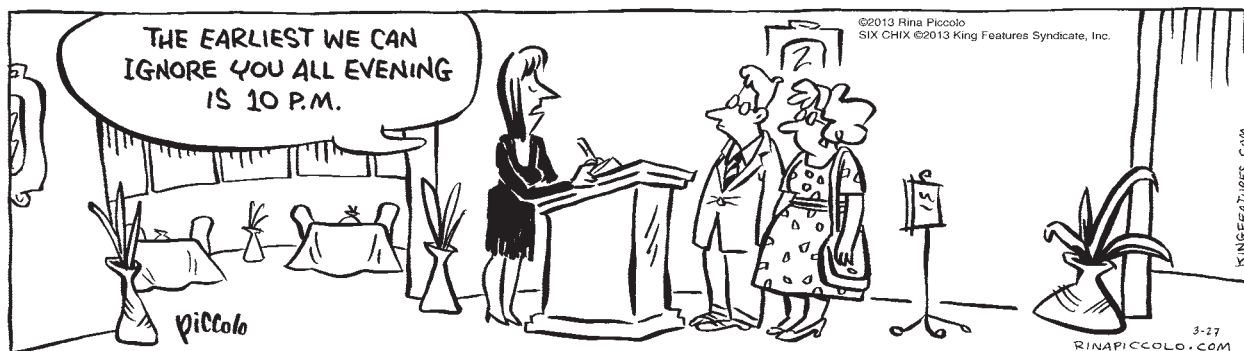


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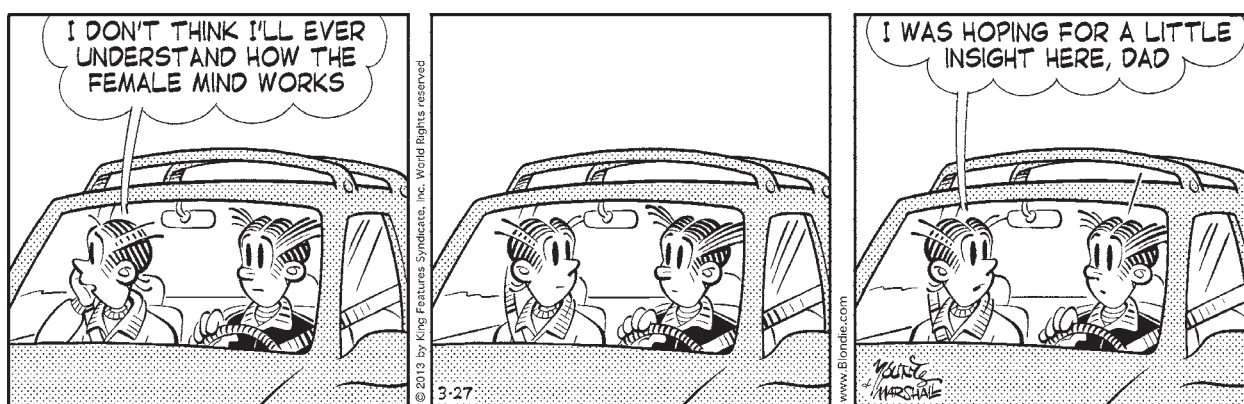
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	7	2	9	1	6			
		8			5	2	7	
		6			2			3
	5					8		9
8							2	4
9							3	
	1					5		
		7			9			
			6	8				

Difficulty Level ★★

3/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	5	1	7	4	2	8	3	9
3	2	8	6	9	1	4	5	7
4	9	7	5	8	3	6	1	2
7	3	5	2	1	4	9	6	8
9	6	4	3	7	8	5	2	1
1	8	2	9	6	5	3	7	4
5	1	9	4	2	6	7	8	3
2	7	3	8	5	9	1	4	6
8	4	6	1	3	7	2	9	5

ACROSS

- Group of eight
- Jacuzzis
- and oil; car maintenance
- Throw water on
- North
- Santa's home
- Under the covers
- Twist or tango
- Just sitting there
- Björn of tennis
- Boats on the Mississippi
- Self-esteem
- Yearn; long
- Partial refunds to buyers
- Stodious; very focused
- Helped
- Oslo's nation: abbr.
- Shift; alter one's plans
- Local; small town resident
- Tack
- More impolite
- Uncommon
- Sandbank
- Day or Roberts
- Cheap metal
- Animal shaped like a pig
- Rely
- TV talk show host Hall
- In this place
- Black eye
- Actress Kim
- Give a traffic ticket to
- Ladd or Thicke
- Make amends
- Singles
- top; casual sleeveless shirt
- Dive forward
- Throw
- Small whirlpool
- Participate in a school bee

DOWN

- Likelihood

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21			22	23			
			24				25					
26	27	28					29					
30			31		32			33	34	35	36	
37			38		39			40		41		
42			43		44			45		46		
			47		48			49		50		
51	52	53					54					
55						56				57	58	59
60					61	62			63			
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/27/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

PAPA	AHEAD	ABLE
OVEN	TOWER	NOOK
SOSO	OPERA	TAPE
TWOTONE	IGNORED	
HEE	MASON	
SKIER	GAL	BYLAW
PURR	TANDEMISE	
ADO	BASHFUL	ACE
CONCUR	URN	TROD
ESSAY	ANY	RUSTY
BEAST	HIE	
SAFARIS	LOBSTER	
USER	SABER	DOVE
DATE	LIONS	APED
SPAT	ELATE	YENS

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3/27/13

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 43 Walkway | 54 -panky; naughtiness |
| 45 Soap operas | 56 Musical group |
| 48 Sea marauder | 57 No longer here |
| 50 Confined | 58 High school subj. |
| 51 Broad neck scarf | 59 Spin around |
| 52 Huge horned beast, for short | 62 Boy |
| 53 Locations | |

Pushback for Tiger Woods' Nike quote

LYNN ZINSER

© 2013 New York Times

Nike's exuberance over Tiger Woods' return to No. 1 in the world is understandable. The company stood by Woods through his infidelity-fueled fall from grace, quietly waiting for its superstar to start winning again.

But its choice of a celebratory quotation is being criticized.

A Nike ad on social media sites features the quote "Winning takes care of everything" over a photo of Woods lining up a putt. Woods often says that when asked about his ranking and other golf-related matters. But if any company knows that winning does not take care of everything, it is Nike, which has inched away from several famous endorsers recently. There was the hasty retreat from Lance Armstrong as charges of using performance-enhancing drugs mounted. There was the scrubbing of Joe Paterno's name off a child-care center at the Nike campus after the Jerry Sandusky scandal. On social media, many comments congratulated Woods, while others took exception.

"Nice message that you are sending to children," wrote one commenter on the Nike Golf Facebook page. □

Classifieds



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Chimps, gorillas, other apes being lost to trade

PAMELA SAMPSON

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — The multibillion-dollar trade in illegal wildlife — clandestine trafficking that has driven iconic creatures like the tiger to near-extinction — is also threatening the survival of great apes, a new U.N. report says.

Endangered chimpanzees, orangutans, gorillas and bonobos are disappearing from the wild in frightening numbers, as private owners pay top dollar for exotic pets, while disreputable zoos, amusement parks and traveling circuses clamor for smuggled primates to entertain audiences.

More than 22,000 great apes are estimated to have been traded illegally over a seven-year period ending in 2011. That's about 3,000 a year; more than half are chimpanzees, the U.N. report said.

"These great apes make up an important part of our natural heritage. But as with all things of value, great apes are used by man for commercial profit and the illegal trafficking of the species constitutes a serious threat to their existence," Henri Djombo, a government minister from the Republic of Congo, was quoted as saying.

The U.N. report paints a dire picture of the fight to protect vulnerable and dwindling flora and fauna from organized criminal networks that often have the upper hand.

Apes are hunted in their own habitats, which are concentrated in central and western Africa, by sophisticated smugglers who transport them on private cargo planes using small airstrips in the African bush. Their destination is usually

the Middle East and Asia. In countries like Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Lebanon, great apes are purchased to display as show pieces in private gardens and menageries. In Asia, the animals are

Nairobi, Kenya, and Khartoum, Sudan, which are trafficking hubs. Bangkok, the Thai capital, is a major hub for the orangutan trade.

Conditions are usually brutal. In February 2005, cus-

sell in the cities.

Humans also have been encroaching upon and destroying the primates' natural habitats, destroying their forest homes to build infrastructure and for other purposes. That forces

in great apes caught in the wild is illegal. But traffickers often get around that by falsely declaring animals as bred in captivity.

The orangutan is the only great ape found in Asia. One species, the Sumatran



In this July 18, 2012 file photo provided by the Chicago Zoological Society shows Maggie, a Bornean orangutan who lives in Brookfield Zoo's Tropic World exhibit, relaxing on her 51st birthday in Brookfield, Ill.

Associated Press

typically destined for public zoos and amusement parks. China is a main destination for gorillas and chimpanzees. Thailand and Cambodia have recorded cases of orangutans being used for entertainment in "clumsy boxing matches," the report said. Lax enforcement and corruption make it easy to smuggle the animals through African cities like

toms officials at the Nairobi airport seized a large crate that had arrived from Egypt.

The crate held six chimpanzees and four monkeys, stuffed into tiny compartments. The crate had been refused at the airport in Cairo, a well-known trafficking hub for shipment to the Middle East, and returned to Kenya. One chimp died of hunger and thirst.

The proliferation of logging and mining camps throughout Africa has also increased the demand for primate meat.

Adults and juveniles are killed for consumption, and their orphans are captured to sell into the live trade. Villagers also pluck primates out of rural areas to

the animals to move into greater proximity and conflict with people.

Sometimes animals are even the victims of war. Arrests are rare largely because authorities in Africa, where most great apes originate, do not have the policing resources to cope with the criminal poaching networks. Corruption is rampant and those in authority sometimes are among those dealing in the illegal trade. Between 2005 and 2011, only 27 arrests were made in Africa and Asia.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) regulates the trade of animals and plants to ensure their survival. Under the agreement, trade

orangutan, is critically endangered, with its population having dropped by 80 percent over the last 75 years.

Their numbers are in great peril due to the pace of land clearance and forest destruction for industrial or agricultural use.

The report estimates that nearly all of the orangutan's natural habitat will be disturbed or destroyed by the year 2030.

"There are no wild spaces left for them," said Douglas Cress, a co-author of the report and head of a U.N. sponsored program that works for the survival of great apes.

"There'll be nothing left at this rate. It's down to the bone. If it disappears, they go, too." □

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From 'Idol' to tour, Urban has no time to idle

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Keith Urban's to-do list goes something like this: Provide the voice of reason on "American Idol," choose and record songs for a new album, plan a tour of outdoor venues and arenas that starts this summer, coordinate and learn songs for an upcoming fundraiser concert, fly back and forth to London where wife Nicole Kidman is shooting a film, and carve out the right amount of time with his two young daughters.

"There's a lot of creativity happening right now," Urban said in a phone interview Monday. "I'm also building a studio at my house, just for the heck of it. Why not? Let's do that, too. I had several meetings yesterday on a Sunday with various people, and it was like I'm choosing color fabrics for something or other and thinking about the song I've got to cut in the studio today. Dear Lord."

Some of the things that are keeping the 45-year-old Australian country music star-TV personality busy:

— "American Idol": Urban's not even through his first season on the Fox network singing competition, but he already knows he'd consider doing it again if asked. He's managed to navigate early tensions between fellow judges Mariah Carey and Nicki Minaj,

and says he's getting to know the real people behind the on-air personas of his fellow judges, a group that also includes Randy Jackson.

"Being on this panel, I love the color of it all — Nicki, Randy and Mariah," Urban said. "I like being on this panel. I like that we don't agree on everything. We come from different places. I think that's important."

— His new album: Urban never set a formal release date, but feels like he's falling behind. He plans lots of guests, so that's slowed things down as he's tried to integrate everyone's schedules. The album's release might not come until late summer.

— The "Light the Fuse" tour, starting July 18: There may be something a little different for those who hit one of his outdoor shows starting this summer, including his first trip to the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles. "There's a chance that we'll start the tour before the album comes out," Urban said. "So in a strange, weird way, people may be hearing songs off the new album live before they hear the album. That's never happened before, but that's where we are."

— The fundraiser: Urban has picked the theme "Rebels and Renegades, The Outlaws Are In" for his Country Music Hall of Fame fundraiser on April 16 at Bridgestone Arena

in Nashville, and he's lined up some of country's most notable mavericks. The list includes Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn, Kris Kristofferson, Hank Williams Jr., Jason Aldean, Eric Church and Rosanne Cash.

Note that sleep isn't on the list. Urban admits he can sometimes feel the weight of all there is to do, but he's figured out a coping mechanism.

"I know in 30 years' time, I'm going to look back at this moment and go, 'Oh, my God, what a great time. I should have enjoyed that more,'" he said. "So I really think of that and it's sort of like I exhale and just slow down and go, 'OK, what's the next thing? What's the next thing?'" □



This Jan. 9, 2013 file photo shows Keith Urban at the "American Idol" premiere event at Royce Hall on the campus of UCLA in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Singer Warwick files for bankruptcy

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

— Singer Dionne Warwick owes nearly \$10 million in back taxes and has filed for bankruptcy.

In a petition filed this month in New Jersey, Warwick lists liabilities that include nearly \$7 million owed to the Internal Revenue Service for the years 1991 to 1999 and more than \$3 million in business taxes owed to the state of California.

The singer of classics such

as "Walk On By," "I Say a Little Prayer" and "Do You Know the Way to San Jose" also lists about \$21,000 in monthly income and about the same amount in monthly expenses.

Warwick's publicist said the singer was victimized by bad financial management and that she has paid back the actual amount of the taxes, but penalties and interest have accumulated over the years. □

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MOLLY GORDY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Asked to describe the length of his hair, Bello Nock whips out a rubber foot, holds it next to the red mane rising from his scalp like a skyscraper and says, "About a foot tall."

The joke is old, but all the material is new in the 42-year-old comic daredevil's first independent production, "Bello Mania," currently playing at The New Victory Theater in New York.

Nock, who headlined the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus for eight years, is never offstage during the 90-minute performance, which combines slapstick clowning with death-defying aerial stunts.

"Studies have shown that people's greatest fears are performing in front of an audience, of being laughed at, and of heights — and my life is all three," Nock said in his dressing room at the New Victory. "It's a dream come true, and I'm loving every minute of it." Nock's wife of 25 years, Jenny, wrote and directs "Bello



This March 23, 2013 photo shows performer Bello Nock in his dressing room at the New Victory Theater, before performing in "Bello Mania," in New York.

Mania," while daughter Amariah, 19, is stage manager, daughter Annalise, 18, and son Zebulon Freicke, 22, join him on the high wire. Son Alexander, 23, opted out to pursue a

psychology degree at the University of Wisconsin, but father Bello quips that "he's the real star of this show, because it's putting him through college."

Nock is a seventh-genera-

tion circus performer. "Bello Mania" includes a slide-show paying tribute to his mother and father, an Italian acrobat and Swiss tight-rope artist who met while touring with Ringling Bros.

Associated Press

during the 1950s.

The couple married and produced four sons, of whom Demetrius Alessandro Claudio Amadeus Bello is the youngest. Like his parents, Nock began circus training at 3 and performing at 11, a tradition he continued with his own children.

"People ask me if I missed having a normal childhood, but I got to explore the world," said Annalise. "While they were studying ancient Roman history, I was performing in Rome and visiting the Coliseum. It was cool!"

Bello Nock has also put this own slant on New York City tourism. On prior visits, he's has hung by his toes from a helicopter flying over the Statue of Liberty, walked a high wire over Lincoln Center and rappelled off Madison Square Garden.

This time, he says he'll stick to performing through March 31 at the New Victory before moving on to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls and a 10-week stint at the Beau Rivage Casino in Biloxi, Miss. □



Dame Helen Mirren arrives for the Jameson Empire Awards at Grosvenor House in central London, Sunday, Mar. 24, 2013. **Associated Press**

Helen Mirren up for best actress at Olivier awards

LONDON (AP) — Helen Mirren received another accolade for her royal performance as Queen Elizabeth II on Tuesday — a best-actress nomination at Britain's Olivier theater awards.

Mirren is nominated for "The Audience," alongside Hattie Morahan for "A Doll's House," Billie Piper for "The Effect" and Kristin Scott Thomas for "Old Times."

Best-actor nominees are Rupert Everett for his turn as Oscar Wilde in "The Judas Kiss"; James McAvooy for "Macbeth"; Mark Rylance for "Twelfth Night"; Rafe Spall for "Constellations"; and Luke Treadaway for "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time."

Nominees for musicals in-

clude Michael Ball and Imelda Staunton for "Sweeney Todd," Alex Bourne and Hannah Waddingham for "Kiss Me, Kate," and Heather Headley for "The Bodyguard."

"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" — based on Mark Haddon's novel about a mystery-solving boy with Asperger's syndrome — has eight nominations, and jaunty musical "Top Hat" seven. The prizes celebrate the best of London theater, opera and dance.

Two political dramas — regal reflection "The Audience" and rough-and-tumble Parliamentary saga "This House" — are up for best new play, alongside love story "Constellations"

and "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time."

Best new musical nominees are geeks-made-good story "Loserville," Tina Turner tribute "Soul Sister," movie-inspired "The Bodyguard" and high-stepping "Top Hat."

Winners in most categories are chosen by a panel of theater professionals and members of the public. Nominees for the Audience Award, decided by public vote, are "Billy Elliot," "Matilda: The Musical," "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Wicked."

Winners will be announced April 28 during a ceremony at London's Royal Opera House. □

Hot Money Blues



PAUL KRUGMAN

© 2013 New York Times What-ever the final outcome in the Cyprus crisis – we know it's going to be ugly; we just don't know exactly what form the ugliness will take – one thing seems certain: for the time being, and probably for years to come, the island nation will have to maintain fairly draconian controls on the movement of capital in and out of the country. In fact, controls may well be in place by the time you read this. And that's not all: Depending on exactly how this plays out, Cypriot capital controls may well have the blessing of the International Monetary Fund, which has already supported such controls in Iceland.

That's quite a remarkable development. It will mark the end of an era for Cyprus, which has in effect spent the past decade advertising itself as a place where wealthy individuals who want to avoid taxes and scrutiny can safely park their money, no questions asked. But it may also mark at least the beginning of the end for something much bigger: the era when unrestricted movement of capital was taken as a desirable norm around the world.

It wasn't always thus. In the first couple of decades after World War II, limits on cross-border money flows were widely considered good policy; they were more or less universal in poorer nations, and present in a majority of richer countries too. Britain, for example, limited overseas investments by its residents until 1979; other advanced countries maintained restrictions into the 1980s. Even the United States briefly limited capital outflows during the 1960s.

Over time, however, these restrictions fell out of fashion. To some extent this reflected the fact that capital controls have potential costs: they impose extra burdens of paperwork, they make business operations more difficult, and conventional economic analysis says that they should have a negative impact on growth (although this effect is hard to find in the numbers). But it also reflected the rise of free-market ideology, the assumption that if financial markets want to move money across borders, there must be a good reason, and bureaucrats shouldn't stand in their way.

As a result, countries that did step in to limit capital flows – like

Malaysia, which imposed what amounted to a curfew on capital flight in 1998 – were treated almost as pariahs. Surely they would be punished for defying the gods of the market!

But the truth, hard as it may be for ideologues to accept, is that unrestricted movement of capital is looking more and more like a failed experiment.

It's hard to imagine now, but for more than three decades after World War II financial crises of the kind we've lately become so familiar with hardly ever happened. Since 1980, however, the roster has been impressive: Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Chile in 1982. Sweden and Finland in 1991. Mexico again in 1995. Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Korea in 1998. Argentina again in 2002. And, of course, the more recent run of disasters: Iceland, Ireland, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Cyprus.

What's the common theme in these episodes? Conventional wisdom blames fiscal profligacy – but in this whole list, that story fits only one country, Greece. Run-away bankers are a better story; they played a role in a number of these crises, from Chile to Sweden to Cyprus. But the best predictor of crisis is large inflows of foreign money: in all but a couple of the cases I just mentioned, the foundation for crisis was laid by a rush of foreign investors into a country, followed by a sudden rush out.

I am, of course, not the first person to notice the correlation between the freeing up of global capital and the proliferation of financial crises; Harvard's Dani Rodrik began banging this drum back in the 1990s. Until recently, however, it was possible to argue that the crisis problem was restricted to poorer nations, that wealthy economies were somehow immune to being whipped by love-'em-and-leave-'em global investors. That was a comforting thought – but Europe's travails demonstrate that it was wishful thinking.

And it's not just Europe. In the last decade America, too, experienced a huge housing bubble fed by foreign money, followed by a nasty hangover after the bubble burst. The damage was mitigated by the fact that we borrowed in our own currency, but it's still our worst crisis since the 1930s.

Now what? I don't expect to see a wholesale, sudden rejection of the idea that money should be free to go wherever it wants, whenever it wants. There may well, however, be a process of erosion, as governments intervene to limit both the pace at which money comes in and the rate at which it goes out. Global capitalism is, arguably, on track to become substantially less global.

And that's OK. Right now, the bad old days when it wasn't that easy to move lots of money across borders are looking pretty good. □



Rand Paul's Loopy Ascent



FRANK BRUNI

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When you've got loons the likes of Ted Cruz and Sarah Palin fluttering about, I suppose it's easy not to seem like such a wacko bird yourself.

Is that why Rand Paul is flying high right now? Or is it because he followed his 13-hour filibuster – that knee-defeating, bladder-defying moment in the Senate sun – by showing a few of his less florid feathers? Either way, he has managed, with remarkable speed, to migrate to the foreground of Republican politics. You could almost lose sight of what an albatross he really is.

Today he's singing the moderate song of immigration reform, and that dirge about drones, which had a valid bass note despite its alarmist melody, struck chords across the political spectrum.

But Paul's greatest hits include a denunciation of Medicare as socialism, a recommendation of stopping foreign aid to a few key allies, and the insistent introduction of Patriot Act amendments so loopy that one of them netted all of 10 votes from the 95 senators present while another garnered a whopping total of 4.

As Jennifer Steinhauer noted in The Times right after he peddled those clunkers, he had seemingly relocated to Washington "less to make laws than points."

Now he's making headlines and waves, and not as a Tea Party curiosity but as a Republican Party lodestar, someone discussed

seriously as a possible force in the 2016 presidential primaries. He was tapped just last week to be the featured speaker at the approaching Lincoln Day Dinner in Iowa. There's an important caucus in that state, you'll recall. Paul personifies the GOP's curse right now. Although it needs to re-establish its bearings in the mainstream, many of the Republicans making the biggest splash are rowing in from strange tributaries, and the establishment can't seem to stop the tide.

Seasoned hands with cooler heads tend not to generate nearly as much excitement. All Jeb Bush generated with the publicity tour for his immigration book was outright befuddlement.

The tail wags the dog. Rather than Cruz, the junior senator from Texas, humbly taking cues from John Cornyn, the senior senator, Cornyn labors to match the supercilious upstart scowl for scowl, and even followed Cruz's intemperate lead to cast one of only three Senate votes against John Kerry's confirmation as secretary of state.

And Mitch McConnell, who is not only Kentucky's senior senator but also the Senate minority leader, seems to worry more about Paul, the state's junior senator, than vice versa.

Back when Paul began his 2010 Senate campaign as an insurgent ophthalmologist (how many times does a journalist get to write that phrase?), McConnell supported the other, more established candidate in the Republican primary. Then Paul triumphed, the Tea Party proved its muscle and McConnell, eyeing his own 2014 re-election bid, had to worry about being undone by the very romance with naysaying outsiders that lofted Paul to victory.

McConnell's campaign manager this time around? The same one Paul used. His new public posture toward Paul? Indulgent,

sometimes even adulatory. He joined Paul for a portion of that marathon filibuster, egging him on.

McConnell doesn't fear a potential Democratic run by Ashley Judd. He fears being "primaried" – the menacing verb that was popularized by the 2010 and 2012 elections, signifying the threat that a state's restive Republican voters will pick a Richard Mourdock over a Richard Lugar. That's Cornyn's dread, too. He's also up in 2014.

And so someone like Paul (who, by the way, voted for Kerry's confirmation) sets the tone. I also wonder if he's modulating his own, as some long-term strategy moseys into his thinking.

Yes, his recent questioning of jail time for marijuana arrests isn't a certain winner, but it's not a surefire loser, either. And his immigration speech last week, which called for a path to citizenship without quite calling it that, suggested a fresh calibration and sensitivity.

But his past brims with statements and stands that make him an unhelpful mascot for his party. He'd be a skunk in a presidential primary and a quixotic, doomed nominee.

He has railed erroneously about the Clean Water Act's effect on his toilets, indelicately quibbled with aspects of the Civil Rights Acts, and carped about the "nanny state" in relation to seat-belt laws. Yes, seat-belt laws.

His distaste for government is so deep you wonder how he can bear to work there. He's like a vegan who has chosen to sup at a steakhouse, though I guess that's the point. Now that he has access to the kitchen, he can filibuster the filet, stall the sirloin with nuisance amendments, and leave diners with only a side of spinach, and maybe an iceberg wedge.

It's a crazy salad he's serving, no matter how it's currently dressed. □

Manscaping:

Shaving below a man's neck, if that's what she wants

ANDREW ADAM NEWMAN
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As bare-chested photographs of hirsute actors Sean Connery and Burt Reynolds from the 1960s and 1970s suggest, there was a time when an abundance of body hair for men was widely considered attractive. But look at magazines like Men's Health and Men's Fitness in recent years, and the vast majority of the shirtless cover models have polished torsos, well-defined six-pack abs and pectoral muscles. Now the Gillette Fusion ProGlide Styler, a trimmer-razor hybrid introduced in 2012 as a facial hair styling tool, is beginning an advertising campaign to encourage men to use the product on other body parts.

A new commercial is set at a poolside cocktail party, where contrasting preferences in men's body hair

are expressed by three comely women: model Kate Upton (some chest hair, but never on the back) and actresses Hannah Simone (hairless stomachs to emphasize abs) and Genesis Rodriguez (no hair at all).

The spot closes with footage of a man using the product, as a voice-over says, "The ProGlide Styler. Trim, shave and edge. The one tool you need to get the look she wants."

The commercial is by BBDO New York, part of the Omnicom Group, with direction by Ruben Fleischer and production by Caviar. It will be introduced widely on television and online Monday 1 as part of a broader campaign called "What women want."

A print ad features Upton in a come-hither pose and the text, "How Does Kate Upton Like Her Man's Body

Styled? Read her Mind." A thought bubble contains a QR code, and scan-



A new commercial for the Gillette Fusion ProGlide Styler features model Kate Upton confessing she prefers a man with some chest hair, but never on his back. (Photo by Diane Bondareff/AP Images)

ning it with a smartphone opens a short video in which Upton is asked more

questions, including "How important is it for a guy to groom 'down there.'" (With a wink, she responds, "Very important.")

Other print ads featuring Rodriguez and Simone follow the same format: scanning QR codes in their thought bubbles reveals preferences in men's below-the-neck grooming, a practice widely known by the decade-old portmanteau, manscaping.

Introduced in February 2012, the Fusion ProGlide Styler was a collaboration between Gillette and Braun, which are both owned by Procter & Gamble.

Among men of all ages, according to the research, the most common area to groom is the groin (33 percent), followed by the chest (24 percent), abs (16 percent) and back (13 percent).

The same research found that 74 percent of women believed men should partake in at least some body hair removal, while 69 percent of men said women influenced their decision to expand their trimming.

While women have appeared in ads for Gillette throughout its century-plus history, the newest campaign is the first time that the brand has used them not just in support roles, but rather as spokeswomen.

"Outside of Hollywood and sports you can't get a look at what a normal guy is doing in terms of body grooming," said Mang, of Gillette, adding that highlighting women with a range of preferences helps guide men. "This is a way of him having an opportunity to see what the landscape can look like to make his decision of what he wants to do." □

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